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# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 78, No. 12 ©SS 2019 **FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019**

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星島新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目2番17号 定価 ¥100

**\$1.00**

## Blast from the past

As US trains for prospect of fight against 'near-peer' adversary, artillery booms from Army landing craft for 1st time in decades

Virginia National Guard soldiers assigned to the Norfolk, Va.-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct waterborne artillery live-fire exercises during Operation Gator in late April at Camp Lejeune, N.C. It was the first waterborne artillery mission for the 111th since D-Day.

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
*Stars and Stripes*

Artillery rounds blasted from howitzers aboard Army landing craft during a recent training mission, the first time in decades that boats from the service's little-known fleet of watercraft have conducted a fire mission.

Known as Operation Gator, the late April drill at Camp Lejeune, N.C., was believed to mark the first riverine artillery mission since the Vietnam War, and comes as the Army has been mulling plans to shutter its National Guard and Reserve component watercraft units.

The troops were training for the possibility that America's next fight could be against what the military calls a "near-peer" adversary. In such a conflict, the U.S. might not be free to move its forces around as easily as it has in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**“Today is a proof of concept to say, ‘Hey, we can still do this.’”**

**Lt. Col. Shawn Talmadge**  
commander of the Virginia National Guard's Norfolk-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment



PHOTOS BY MIKE VRABEL/Courtesy of the U.S. National Guard

“We’re having to relearn some of the tactics for fighting a formidable enemy. It’s very different from the asymmetric warfare we’ve been fighting,” said Lt. Col. Shawn Talmadge, commander of the Virginia National Guard's Norfolk-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, in a phone interview Tuesday.

Being able to fire from a landing craft, rather than unloading the weapon and setting it up on dry land, can save time and possibly save lives in battle with a closely matched enemy.

Talmadge's National Guardsmen loaded a 105-mm M119A3 howitzer on a landing craft piloted by active-duty soldiers from the 11th Transportation Battalion, 7th Transportation Brigade, based out of Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Va., said a Virginia National Guard statement this week.

**SEE BLAST ON PAGE 5**

## SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

### DOD report: Assaults on young women rise sharply

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Sexual assaults against female troops have increased by 44% since 2016, with the highest increase affecting junior enlisted servicemembers, according to a Pentagon report released Thursday.

“The results of this report are not acceptable by any standard,” Elizabeth Van Winkle, the executive director of the Office of Force Resiliency at the Defense Department, told reporters Thursday at the Pentagon. “We will learn from what our women and men in uniform told us this year and adjust our strategies. I remain optimistic that we will course correct.”

The Defense Department's 2018 report on sexual assault in the military included results from the 2018 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Active-Duty Members, which found 20,500 servicemembers experienced sexual assault within the past year — an increase of 38% from 14,900 in fiscal year 2016 when the survey was last conducted.

The report found 6.2% of servicewomen experienced sexual assault in 2018, a 44% increase from the rate of 4.3% in fiscal year 2016.

The increase in sexual assault was mostly among female servicemembers between the ages of 17 and 24 and junior enlisted women, “who are already at the highest risk for sexual assault,” according to a Pentagon document highlighting the report's findings.

“This increase is absolutely unacceptable,” said Adm. Ann Burkhardt, the director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

**SEE ASSAULTS ON PAGE 10**

## EUROPE

## Gen. Wolters assumes command of EUCOM

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Air Force Gen. Tod Wolters assumed command Thursday of U.S. troops in Europe, where the military has expanded its mission in recent years to counter a more aggressive Russia.

During a change of command ceremony at U.S. European Command's Stuttgart headquarters, Wolters said his aim is to build on gains in combat readiness over the past three years.

"We are excited about maintaining this positive campaign trajectory," Wolters said. "We will continue to fortify our stance and push our competitive advantage as high as humanly possible."

Wolters, previously the U.S. Air Force commander in Europe, replaced retiring Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti. On Friday, Wolters also will formally take up his dual position as NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe.

For three years, Scaparrotti led U.S. and NATO forces in a mission that has focused largely on deterring an increasingly assertive Russia. To that end, the U.S. has boosted its presence along the alliance's eastern flank, with rotational forces and multinational battle groups in Poland and the Baltics. Under Scaparrotti's leadership, allies also have expanded operations in the Black Sea region.

The ceremony in Stuttgart was officiated by Army Secretary Mark Esper, who 25 years ago served as a company commander under Scaparrotti, who was then a battalion commander based in Vicenza, Italy.

"I was impressed with his leadership then," Esper said.

Esper described Scaparrotti as a visionary leader who "revolutionized" the Army's global response force as a commander with the 82nd Airborne Division, held key commands during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and led U.S. Forces Korea during a turbulent time.

"As you've always done you've made it matter at this command too, adapting it to the challenges of the time and strengthening EUCOM's network of allies and partners," Esper said.

Esper presided in Stuttgart in lieu of acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan, who remained in Washington to monitor the crisis in Venezuela.

Scaparrotti, a 1978 West Point graduate, said the past three years have been about preparing NATO forces to fight and defend alliance territory.

"During this time we enhanced our military posture for effective deterrence and defense," Scaparrotti said. "Our ability to fight and control our forces and allies in high intensity conflict significantly improved."

Scaparrotti called Wolters a "brilliant leader and experienced warrior" who was the right choice to carry the mission forward.

Wolters told the forces assembled at the Stuttgart parade ground that their mission is unchanged.

"As this formation well knows, these activities — deter [aggression] and generate peace — are solemn perpetual goals," he said.

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Outgoing U.S. European Command commander Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, right, receives a ceremonial shell casing at a change of command ceremony at Patch Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany, on Thursday.



Sgt. 1st Class Andre Goncalves, the drum major for the joint U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Air Forces in Europe band, salutes following the ceremony.



The new commander of U.S. European Command, Air Force Gen. Tod D. Wolters, speaks at Thursday's ceremony.

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## PACIFIC

# On the move

Pacific Air Forces practices rapid readiness for typhoon operations

By CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II  
*Stars and Stripes*

Airmen from seven air wings across the Pacific recently tested their ability to disperse aircraft, reorganize elsewhere and operate in the face of extreme weather.

The exercise, Resilient Typhoon, began April 22 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, where U.S. airmen from Japan, Hawaii and Alaska gathered and then moved to airfields in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and Guam, according to Pacific Air Forces.

The drills lasted until April 26 and included airfields on the islands of Tinian and Saipan in the Northern Marianas, two areas devastated by a super typhoon last fall.

Throughout the exercise, involving aircraft ranging from F-16s to C-130Js, airmen trained to rapidly move personnel and supplies, erect post-disaster communications and deliver airfield rescue firefighting.

Extreme weather in just the past year illustrates the importance of this training. Severe weather and a typhoon most recently interrupted exercise Cope North in Guam, for example.

"Operational environments and global threats evolve rapidly," Brig. Gen. Michael Winkler, Pacific Air Forces director of strategy, plans and programs, said in the statement from Pacific Air Forces. "We must ensure that all forward-deployed forces are ready for a potential contingency with little notice and that we can move more fluidly across the theater to seize, retain and exploit the initiative in any environment."

Last year 35 numbered storms, three above the annual average, blew across the western Pacific Ocean, including seven super typhoons.

One of them, Yutu, the second-strongest typhoon to ever hit a U.S. state or territory since record keeping began in 1958, struck the Northern Marianas in late October.

In February, Super Typhoon Wutip, the first Category 5 tropical cyclone recorded in the northern hemisphere outside typhoon season, formed 200 miles southwest of Guam. It brushed by the island and peaked at sustained winds of 161 mph before weakening in the east Philippine Sea.

Wutip on Feb. 22 interrupted the Cope North exercise at Andersen Air Force Base.

The Resilient Typhoon exercise last month was also designed to maintain readiness in support of regional allies, as well as train to quickly adapt and respond, according to the statement.

"Pacific Air Forces appreciates the long history of support it has enjoyed in the region and strives to be a good partner with the people across Micronesia in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific," said Winkler. "These exercises serve to enhance our relationship while also providing invaluable training and operational readiness."

Stars and Stripes reporter Dave Ornauer contributed to this report.  
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JOHN LINZMEIER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force



MATTHEW SEEFELD/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force



GABRIELLE SPALDING/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force



JOHN LINZMEIER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Clockwise from top: A pilot answers questions about the F-22 Raptor at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport, Saipan, during exercise Resilient Typhoon last month. Island of Yap locals tour a C-130J Super Hercules at Yap International Airport. F-22 Raptors practice low approaches at Palau International Airport. Air Force Capt. Celestino Agunon greets Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan at Tinian International Airport.



## MILITARY

# Head of 4th Fleet gets Naval Academy nod

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Rear Adm. Sean S. Buck has been nominated to be the next superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer and Adm. John Richardson, the chief of naval operations, nominated Buck on Tuesday, according to the academy. Buck would be appointed to the rank of vice admiral if he is confirmed by the Senate.

Buck would be the 63rd superintendent

of the Naval Academy, replacing Vice Adm. Walter "Ted" Carter, who is retiring. The change of command is planned for the summer, but the date has not been selected as they wait for the Senate confirmation, according to the academy.

Originally from Indianapolis, Ind., Buck is a 1983 graduate of the Naval Academy.



Buck

In his career as a naval flight officer, Buck has flown the P-3C Orion, an anti-submarine warfare patrol aircraft, and served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, according to his Navy biography. He has also commanded the Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11 at Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida and served as the chief of staff for the plans and policy director for the Joint Staff, according to the announcement.

Buck now serves as the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and the U.S. 4th Fleet at Naval Station Mayport

near Jacksonville.

He has a master's degree in international security policy from George Washington University in Washington. Buck's other education includes the College of Command and Staff at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I.; the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va.; and the Seminar XXI program offered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Washington.

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## Private firm preparing to launch 3 Air Force satellites

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

A trio of Air Force satellites is ready to blast off from New Zealand on an Electron rocket as early as Saturday, according to the company charged with getting them into space.

Rocket Lab, founded by New Zealander Peter Beck in 2006 and headquartered in Huntington Beach, Calif., launched its first rocket, dubbed "It's Business Time," from New Zealand in January 2018 and its first commercial satellite in November.

This month's launch is part of the Air Force's Rapid Agile Launch Initiative to procure small, commercial launch vehicles that included \$5.7 million for Rocket Lab for a dedicated launch mission, Space News reported April 3.

"RALI demonstrates rapid procurement and the responsiveness of commercial launch, dedicated launch for small payloads to militarily-relevant orbits, on-demand responsiveness, and increased operational tempo over legacy national launch architecture," Lt. Gen. David Thompson, vice commander of Air Force Space Command, said in prepared testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee's strategic forces subcommittee March 27, according to Space News.

"We hope ... [there will be] many launches with our government customers," said Lars Hoffman, a former Air Force U-2 spy plane pilot who served at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, and Osan Air Base, South Korea, before becoming Rocket Lab's Los Angeles-based senior vice president for global launch services.

The Air Force launch follows



Courtesy of Rocket Lab

**Rocket Lab is scheduled to launch three U.S. Air Force satellites from New Zealand as early as Saturday.**

successful missions for NASA last year and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency last month, Hoffman said in a phone interview Wednesday.

Rocket Lab has conducted five launches so far and put 25 satellites into space. It has launches scheduled every month this year, Hoffman said.

The Air Force is interested in commercial launch services because they're cheaper and more convenient than traditional launches, said Paul Buchanan, an American security analyst based in Auckland, New Zealand.

"The real sensitive stuff will continue to be in U.S. military and government hands, but the rest is an open field at this point," he said in an email Thursday.

If commercial entities can lower turnaround times between launches then they're likely to see more government business,

he said.

The satellites launched by Rocket Lab fly in low Earth orbit — between 100 and 1,200 miles above the ground. They're ideal for geospatial mapping and remote sensing and can also be used for intelligence gathering, Buchanan said.

The militarization of space is not a matter of if but when, he said. "Getting a leg up on potential adversaries through the use of trusted and secure commercial partners is naturally attractive to U.S. military planners," he said.

In March, India successfully shot down one of its own low-Earth satellites, scattering debris that, NASA said, threatened the International Space Station. Russia and China also have anti-satellite weapons.

Rocket Lab's small satellite launches, which can cost a fraction of the \$40 million to \$50

million to blast a large national security satellite into orbit, could be a game changer for customers managing small satellites in low-Earth orbit, according to Morgan Bailey, a New Zealand-based company spokeswoman.

If a satellite in a constellation fails and it needs to be replaced immediately, Rocket Lab's service could be the answer, she said.

Electron rocket engines and avionics are made in California and shipped to New Zealand for assembly, Hoffman said.

The launch site, on the Mahia Peninsula on the east coast of New Zealand's North Island, has favorable weather and low air traffic, he said.

There's minimal red tape from the New Zealand government, meaning the company can launch up to 120 times a year, far more than would be possible at facilities such as Cape Canaveral or the Kennedy Space Center in Florida or Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., he said.

The rocket that will take off this month has been dubbed "That's A Funny Looking Cactus" in honor of the Air Force Space Test Program's home in Albuquerque, N.M., according to Rocket Lab's website.

The payloads on the rocket include a device for tracking space junk designed by Air Force Academy cadets, a satellite called Harbinger designed to test synthetic aperture radar, and SPARC 1, a communication and situational awareness device, Bailey said.

Rocket Lab's launch will happen during a 14-day window that begins Saturday, she said.

The military's involvement in space has come under extra scrutiny since President Donald

Trump began pushing plans for a Space Force last year. Hoffman said the company is watching developments and stands ready to support national security space needs.

Rocket Lab is building a second launch facility at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia that will allow it to launch another rocket each month, he said.

It has also developed a solar-powered "satellite bus" that can carry a customer's gear into space and support it for up to five years. That might be attractive to people who want to put cameras or other systems in orbit but don't want the hassle of designing their own satellite, Bailey said.

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## Air Force program would turn senior NCOs into officers in 14 days

Stars and Stripes

The Air Force plans to test a program that will turn senior noncommissioned officers into commissioned officers in 14 days.

The Officer Training School-Accelerated Commissioning Program, a beta test at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., will begin in August, compressing the normal 40-day course to two weeks, according to an April 30 service

statement.

The first course will have 36 candidates in the ranks of master sergeant to chief master sergeant: 26 active-duty airmen, five reservists and five National Guardsmen. A second course will take place in October.

Candidates for the beta test were chosen from the January-February OTS selection board.

Eligible SNCOs must have completed the

SNCO Academy course and been selected for Officer Training School through the normal board process, officials said. Airmen cannot apply directly for the OTS-AC program.

"Ultimately, the aim is to drive agility and flexibility in our processes and programs so that we more efficiently and effectively deliver qualified, trained, educated and experienced Airmen to meet mission requirements," officials said.



## MILITARY

# Blast: Army brings WWII, Vietnam War tactics back in North Carolina exercises

## FROM FRONT PAGE

After a 90-minute boat ride up the Atlantic-Intracoastal Waterway, which runs through the North Carolina Marine base, the landing craft "stabbed" its bow into the riverbank to provide a stable firing position. The waterway was blocked to boat traffic to reduce turbulence that could affect the mission, which began April 25 after a day of rehearsals.

"Today is a proof of concept to say, 'Hey, we can still do this,'" Talmadge said in the statement.

For the artillery regiment, which is part of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, it was the first waterborne live fire mission since World War II's D-Day landing, nearly 75 years ago.

The Army used watercraft extensively during WWII and often fired artillery from boats during the Vietnam War.

The exercise comes nearly a year after Army Secretary Mark Esper decided last June that the Reserve would "divest all watercraft systems," a decision highlighted in a January briefing prepared by the New Orleans,

La.-based 377th Theater Sustainment Company, which oversees most of the Reserve's boats. The Army confirmed in late January that it was conducting a formal analysis of its fleet inventory.

In March, the commander of the Baltimore-based 949th Watercraft Transportation Company announced the unit was slated to be inactivated in a ceremony in August.

The service's aging flotilla includes eight types of watercraft, from small "Mike boats"—like the landing craft used for Operation Gator—to football field-length vessels able to carry up to 15 M1A2 Abrams tanks at a time.

Mike boats have been used to land small forces on hostile beaches dating back to the Vietnam War but are now considered too slow to come ashore under fire, an Army Command and General Staff College research paper found in 2015. They get more expensive to maintain each year, and Lt. Col. Philip S. Raumberger, the paper's author, said the Army needs to decide whether



MIKE VABEEL/Courtesy of the U.S. National Guard

Virginia National Guard soldiers assigned to the Norfolk-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct waterborne artillery live-fire exercises during Operation Gator on April 24-25 at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

or to keep them.

At Camp Lejeune last week, the 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division and the Fort Sill, Okla.-based Fires Center of Excellence observed the two-day waterborne artillery exercise, the military statement said. Further details will be shared with the Fort Sill center and the Picatinny

Arsenal in New Jersey to determine whether new doctrine is needed for using modern weapons on such fire missions, Talmadge said in the statement.

Talmadge, 44, has deployed twice during the Global War on Terrorism, but he told Stars and Stripes he remembers the days before 9/11 when the Army pre-

pared for peer-to-peer conflict. The service is again looking to past wars to guide its future tactics, he said.

"We are studying our history, finding techniques that may be relevant today," Talmadge said.

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## EUROPE

# WWII mission to rescue famed horses remembered

Operation Cowboy is celebrated by 2nd Cavalry in Czech Republic

By MARTIN EGNASH  
Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment took part in a Czech ceremony this week commemorating Operation Cowboy, a mission Gen. George Patton entrusted to the same unit in the closing days of World War II.

The cavalry unit's orders were simple: The general, a famous horse enthusiast, directed the soldiers to save a group of purebred horses from slaughter.

The soldiers were successful, saving the horses — the Lipizzaner Stallions, one of Europe's oldest breeds — and freeing more than 150 allied prisoners while liberating the Czech towns of Bela and Hostoun.

The two towns have put on a celebration to honor the American troops for more than 10 years, after dedicating a memorial for two U.S. soldiers who died in the fighting.

"The entire experience was absolutely humbling," said Capt. Dallas Wiggins, a troop commander with the regiment who took part in the events this week marking the 74th anniversary of the operation. "To fall into this (unit's) legacy and represent those few that changed the culture of these towns is truly remarkable."

Wiggins spoke at ceremonies in the town squares of both Hostoun and Bela, where soldiers from the regiment marched in a color guard and presented wreaths. Troops also showed off the regiment's Stryker armored vehicles to local children.

Civilians dressed in WWII-period uniforms also took part in the events, and Libor Picka, Bela's mayor, wore the cavalry's signature Stetson while speaking at the site of the stone memorial honoring Pfc. Raymond E. Manz and Technician 5th Grade Owen W. Sutton, the two members of Alpha Troop, 42nd Cavalry Squadron, who were killed during Operation Cowboy.

After the communist coup in Czechoslovakia in 1948, the American operation that liberat-



PHOTOS BY DENICE LOPEZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment stand at attention with the American and Czech flags during the 74th anniversary of Operation Cowboy at Bela Town Square, Bela, Czech Republic, on Tuesday.**

ed the horses and the towns eventually faded from memory until recent decades.

The mission had sprung from concerns that the Lipizzaner lineage would be lost. The Third Reich had seized nearly all the horses of the breed — several hundred — from the Spanish Riding School in Vienna and taken them to a stud farm outside Hostoun as part of a livestock breeding program.

But in April 1945, the farm was directly in the path of the advancing Red Army, which was on a collision course with remaining brigades of the SS, an elite and fanatical Nazi unit. A German prisoner of war told the 2nd Cavalry's Col. Charles Reed about the horses, who some caretakers were worried the hungry and tired Soviet troops might kill for food.

Reed telegraphed his boss, Patton, who had competed in an equestrian event in the 1912 Olympics, asking permission to save the stallions. Patton ordered them to do it quickly.

The capture of Hostoun on April 28, 1945, "resembled a fiesta," Reed wrote in his report on the operation, listing 300 Lipizzaner horses rescued along with more than 100 of the best Arabian horses in Europe, about 200 thoroughbred racehorses and 600 Cossack breeding horses.

Still, there weren't enough U.S. troops to ride and drive the horses some 25 miles back to U.S. lines. Then a group of White Russian Cossacks fleeing with their horses from the Soviets offered to help. They left their horses behind, and those did end up as food for the Red Army.

The Lipizzaners were returned to Vienna, and many of the other rescued horses were sent to Fort Riley, Kan.

"We had seen so many horrors in the previous months that we had to do something wonderful," Reed would say of the decision to undertake the rescue.

Horses hold a special place of significance for the regiment, which began as a horseback-riding dragoon unit in the early 19th century, Wiggins said. The regiment's soldiers are still called dragoons today.



**A Czech World War II reenactor lays down a wreath during the Operation Cowboy anniversary observance.**

"For the Dragons, 2CAV, we are mounted infantrymen. If it was a horse, an armored car or a Stryker, we will close with and destroy the enemy," Wiggins said.

"Ultimately, horse riding is our cavalry heritage. It's a (cavalry) thing."

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## ACCOMPLISH WHAT OTHERS CAN'T

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**"To fall into this (unit's) legacy and represent those few that changed the culture of these towns is truly remarkable."**

Capt. Dallas Wiggins  
U.S. Army

## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Afghan grand council agrees on recommendations for peace talks

By AMIR SHAH  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan grand council on Thursday agreed on several recommendations for peace talks with the Taliban, after four days of meetings in Kabul meant to hammer out a common strategy for future negotiations.

President Ashraf Ghani had convened the council of more than 3,200 participants, known as a Loya Jirga, earlier in the week. Though the gathering is consultative and its recommendations are

not binding for Ghani, it underscored his government's effort to project a unified stance.

However, a number of prominent Afghans, including Ghani's partner in the unity government, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, boycotted the council, which ends on Friday.

The U.S. has in recent months stepped up efforts to resolve Afghanistan's 17-year war — America's longest conflict — and has been pressing for direct talks between the Taliban and Kabul. The insurgents refuse to talk to the government, considering it a U.S.

puppet, though they have held several rounds of talks with U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

The participants in the Loya Jirga — which included politicians, tribal elders, many prominent figures and others — were divided into dozens of committees and discussed several issues, including a cease-fire and women's rights in keeping with the tenets of Islam.

The Taliban have so far refused to accept any cease-fire until the roughly 17,000 NATO troops — 14,000 of whom are American — withdraw from Afghanistan.



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Delegates attend the fourth day of the Afghan Loya Jirga meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday.

The council overwhelmingly backed talks between Kabul and the Taliban and also called for the U.N. to remove its global terrorist designation for the Taliban, a long-standing demand of the insurgents.

But after holding an opening

speech Monday, Ghani gave the chairmanship of the council to Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, a former warlord with past links to Osama bin Laden and the militants who took control of Kabul after the collapse of the communist government in the early 1990s.

## US weighs designation of Muslim Brotherhood as terrorist group

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and his national security team are weighing whether to designate the Muslim Brotherhood a foreign terrorist organization, the White House said Tuesday.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Trump was

consulting with his advisers and leaders in the region who share his concern about the Islamic movement with followers across the Middle East.

The New York Times first reported on Tuesday that the administration was pushing to designate the group, but the idea is not new.

Some people think the Muslim Brotherhood does not meet the legal criteria required for the designation. Others think the organization is too diverse and spread out across nations, making it difficult to enforce a one-size-fits-all description.

There also are questions about whether a designation would

complicate U.S. diplomacy.

To meet the legal criteria for the designation, a group must engage in terrorist activity that threatens the security of Americans or the defense, foreign relations or economic interests of the United States.

Jonathan Schanzer, with the Foundation for Defense of De-

mocracies, a Washington think tank, said some violent branches of the group could be designated, but other members support its extremist political views but not violence.

That "blurry" picture of the group was what discouraged earlier U.S. administrations from designating it, he said.



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## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Pentagon reports 120 civilian deaths from US strikes in '18

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — U.S. military operations killed 120 civilians in 2018, the Pentagon said in a new assessment of noncombatant deaths.

The department, in an annual report to Congress, said that 42 civilians were confirmed to have been killed last year in the U.S.-led operation against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. It said 76 more were killed in operations against the Taliban and other militants in Afghanistan, and two civilians died in operations against al-Shabab in Somalia.

The department found no credible reports of civilian deaths caused by U.S. operations in Libya or Yemen last year.

Outside watchdog groups such as Airwars have put forward much higher death tolls for U.S. counterterrorism strikes. For 2018, despite a significant slowing of the American campaign against ISIS, Airwars found that air and artillery strikes by the U.S.-led coalition killed a minimum of 805 people in Iraq and Syria alone.

The gap underscores the differ-

ing approaches that the groups, which typically rely on witness statements and accounts on social media, have taken in piecing together information about U.S. strikes and that of the military, which has slowly begun to incorporate such data into its assessments.

The report comes several months after the Trump administration altered an Obama administration rule requiring a separate, broader annual report on civilian casualties.

The White House argued the change was made to avoid duplication with the congressionally mandated report. But the White House report previously included a tally including accidental deaths caused by military and intelligence operations. Its elimination means the public will no longer have access to information about CIA drone strikes.

CIA strikes are far less frequent than they were under President Barack Obama, but the agency remains authorized to conduct such attacks.

Dan Mahanty, director for the U.S. Program at the Center for

Civilians in Conflict, said the report reflected improved military transparency about its operations overseas. But the lack of information from intelligence agencies "brings the government's inconsistency further into relief and undermines this achievement," he said.

"The report also further validates our instinct that we clearly still have work to do on the degree of effort [the Defense Department] puts into proactively seeking out facts that it doesn't have at its fingertips," Mahanty said.

Last month, President Donald Trump vetoed a measure that would have ended U.S. military support for Saudi Arabia and allied countries battling Houthi rebels in Yemen. The U.S. military does not generally attack Houthi targets, but it has provided arms and refueled planes for the Saudi coalition. The U.S. military conducts a separate campaign against al-Qaida in Yemen.

The two deaths referenced in Somalia mark the first time since U.S. Africa Command was created in 2008 that it acknowledged causing civilian loss of life.

# South Asian experts downplay ISIS threat

*Associated Press*

NEW DELHI — Indian and Bangladeshi officials and security experts largely dismissed a fresh threat of violence from an Islamic State-aligned media group, insisting that safety measures and surveillance are adequate to keep militants from carrying out a Sri Lanka-style attack elsewhere in South Asia.

Al-Mursalat Media released a poster Tuesday featuring a photo of five militants who carried out a 2016 attack at a cafe in the diplomatic enclave of Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, according to global terrorism monitor SITE Intelligence. Below the picture of the militants, depicted carrying rifles and smiling, text states that the "soldiers of the khilafah," or caliphate, in Bangladesh and India have not been "silenced" and "the anger of the mujahideen will suddenly bring destruction upon you."

The poster, with text written in English, Hindi and Bengali and sent over the media group's Telegram channel, came as authorities in India and Bangladesh investigated activities with possible ISIS links while Sri Lanka pursued suspects tied to the Eas-

ter Day bombings at churches and hotels that killed 253 people.

Sri Lankan police late Wednesday made public the names and photographs of nine suicide bombers who carried out the series of Easter Day explosions, including the locations where their bombs were detonated. The list of eight men and one woman included the man officials say led the attack, extremist preacher Mohamed Zahran, also known as Zahran Hashim, who was one of two attackers at Colombo's Shangri-La Hotel.

M.K. Narayanan, the former chief of India's external intelligence service, said that while he "wouldn't read this as a harbinger of what they're about to do," President Donald Trump "is off the mark when he says that [ISIS] is dead."

Bangladeshi police are investigating an ISIS-claimed crude bomb explosion in front of a Dhaka shopping center that injured three police officers Monday.

Mufti Mahmud Khan, a spokesman for Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion, a security force focused on combating extremist groups, said he didn't place "any great emphasis" on the threat released by Al-Mursalat Media.

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MILITARY

# Navy: UFO reports not expected to go to general public

By PAUL SONNE  
The Washington Post

The U.S. Navy has drafted a procedure to investigate and catalog reports of unidentified flying objects coming in from its pilots. But the service doesn't expect to make the information public, citing privileged and classified reporting that is typically included in such files.

Joe Gradisher, a spokesman for the office of the deputy chief of naval operations for information warfare, said in a statement that the Navy expects to keep the information it gathers private for a number of reasons.

"Military aviation safety organizations always retain reporting of hazards to aviation as privileged information in order to preserve the free and honest prioritization and discussion of safety among aircrew," Gradisher said. "Furthermore, any report generated as a result of these investigations will, by necessity, include classified information on military operations."

He added, "Therefore, no release of information to the general public is expected."

The Navy's recent decision to draft formal guidelines for pilots to document encounters with unexplained aerial phenomena comes after the revelation in late 2017 that the Pentagon ran a secret "UFO" office that spent \$22 million over five years to collect and analyze "anomalous aerospace threats." Funding for the office, known as the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program, or AATIP, officially ended in 2012, though operations continued.

Among other things, the program resulted in the release of footage from the cockpit cameras of military aircraft which appeared to document oval-shaped vessels that resemble flying Tic Tacs.

Reports of curious sightings from military aircraft aren't new. During World War II, Allied military pilots witnessed unexplained objects and fireballs that they dubbed "foo fighters." A number of official government investigations looked into such phenomena in the postwar period.

Now, the Navy has agreed to a more formalized process for cataloging and investigating reports from pilots, a decision welcomed by former U.S. officials who want the military to take the matter seriously and remove the stigma in the armed forces of reporting such incidents.

Even though the Navy indicated that it has no plans in the imminent future to release the data, unclassified portions of the information or broad overviews

of the findings could come out, according to Luis Elizondo, an intelligence officer who ran AATIP before leaving the Pentagon.

"If it remains strictly within classified channels, then the 'right person' may not actually get the information. The right person doesn't necessarily mean a military leader. It can be a lawmaker. It can be a whole host of different individuals," Elizondo said.

For example, in the future, the Navy theoretically could release broad statistics about the number of sightings and the results of the follow-up investigations without disclosing any classified information. Even if the information isn't made available to the public, it could be reported to Congress. Frustrated that a potential security threat wasn't receiving the attention and funding he thought it deserved, Elizondo left the Pentagon in 2017 and joined a startup that promotes UFO research for scientific and entertainment purposes. The organization is collaborating on a six-part History Channel series due out this month that will explore Elizondo's work on the issue.

In a conversation with The Washington Post, Elizondo praised the Navy for changing its policy and taking a public stance and credited lawmakers on Capitol Hill for beginning to take the matter seriously. He said he expects the effort to lead to more information gathering and sharing at the Pentagon and ultimately a better understanding of the "enigma" reported by military pilots.

Seth Shostak, senior astronomer at the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute in Mountain View, California, said that regardless of the explanation, it's positive that the military is collecting more information because it could lead to a relevant discovery about technological equipment or activity by a potential adversary.

"Of course, it's a good thing," Shostak said. "Get more information. It costs a little bit of money, but not very much money. These days, you do worry — are the Chinese doing reconnaissance, are the Russians doing reconnaissance, on military activity?"

Shostak cautioned that sightings of unidentified objects, which military pilots have been reporting for decades, could have a more earthly explanation than activity by an extraterrestrial civilization.

"If they are here, if they are sailing the skies, you have got to say — they are really great house guests," Shostak said. "They never kill anybody... they don't even delay the flights out of Reagan."

# Attention Federal Employees

Blue Cross and Blue Shield will conduct the activities indicated below from May 6 through May 13, 2019. During this time, representatives will be available to provide information about the health plan and be available to answer your questions. Please plan to attend if you are in the area.

DATE	FACILITY	ACTIVITY	TIME
May 6	U.S. Embassy Brussels Bilat Conference Room <i>DVC to NATO - Drew Conference Room</i>	Pre-Retirement Seminar	10:30 am - 12:00 pm
	U.S. Embassy Brussels Bilateral Building CLO Office, First Floor	Information Booth	12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
	SHAPE International School Teacher's Lounge Room 711 (behind teen center)	Information Booth	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
May 7	NATO Drew Conference Room, 3rd Floor	Information Booth	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
	Brussels American School Multi-Purpose Room/Media Center	Information Booth	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
May 9	American Embassy - Berlin America Haus Room/ PA Mitte Ground Floor	Pre-Retirement Seminar	10:30 am - 12:00 pm
	American Embassy - Berlin Fireplace Area - Mitte	Information Booth	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
May 10	American Embassy - Berlin Clay Annex Conference Room 237	Pre-Retirement Seminar	10:00 am - 11:30 am
	American Embassy - Berlin Clay Annex CSA Café	Information Booth	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
May 13	American Embassy - Vienna 2nd floor Large Conference Room, Bilat <i>DVC to IZD 37th Floor Large Conference Room</i>	Pre-Retirement Seminar	10:30 am - 12:00 pm
	American Embassy - Vienna Kolar's Kitchen, Bilat	Information Booth	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
	American Embassy - Vienna IZD Tower, 37th Floor Large Conference Room	Information Booth	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

**You do not have to be a member to attend these events.  
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## MILITARY

# China's stealth jet might be ready this year

By TONY CAPACCIO  
Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — China may declare its first stealth fighter operational this year as it also develops long-range bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons, part of a regional buildup by Beijing that the U.S. is closely monitoring, according to the U.S. Air Force's Pacific commander.

Gen. Charles Brown, the head of Pacific Air Forces, said the stealthy J-20 fighter could "possibly" be operational this year, a move he said would signal "greater threat, greater capability" for China in the Pacific. He went on to emphasize that U.S. efforts to counter those developments include rising deployments of next-generation F-35 jets and continuing overflights of strategic areas such as the South China Sea.

"My sense of the way the Chinese oper-



Wikimedia Commons

**A Chengdu J-20 flies during the opening of Airshow China in Zhuhai in 2016.**

ate is somewhat incremental," Brown said in an interview this week at Bloomberg's headquarters in New York. "They'll continue to push the envelope to figure out does anybody say or do anything — if you don't push back it'll keep coming."

Fielding the J-20 would add to what's already the region's largest air force and world's third-largest, with more than 2,500 total aircraft including 1,700 combat fighters, strategic bombers, tactical bombers and multi-mission tactical and attack aircraft, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency said in a report earlier this year.

China's J-20 fighter is part of a modernization effort that's been "closing the gap with Western air forces across a broad spectrum of capabilities, such as aircraft performance, command and control and electronic warfare," the report said.

Brown also said he thinks China is moving to develop dual-use bombers that would be "similar to our bombers" in terms of being able to carry nuclear weapons and nonnuclear precision-guided weapons.

"I don't think it would be too far off the mark to say they could do that as

well," Brown added, without indicating whether China may have a stealth bomber capability.

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, in a statement Wednesday for the House Defense Appropriations subcommittee, said a Chinese long-range bomber "if successful, would make it only one of 'three nations' to 'possess a nuclear triad' of land, sea and air-based nuclear capabilities.

The U.S. has a number of ways to counter China's buildup, Brown said. That includes being unpredictable in deployments of the B-1B, B-52 and B-2 bombers.

The B-1B, Brown said, is now qualified to carry a new Lockheed Martin Corp. anti-satellite missile, a few of which have been stockpiled in the Pacific region.

## Assaults: 'This is unacceptable,' Shanahan says

### FROM FRONT PAGE

According to the Pentagon, the report found most of the perpetrators were in the junior enlisted ranks of E3 to E5 and they were often the same rank or just above that of the victim. The report also found that 24% of women and 6% of men experienced sexual harassment in fiscal year 2018, which was a significant increase from 2016, said Ashley Klahr, director of health and resilience research of the Office of People Analytics at the Pentagon.

But 1 in 3 servicemembers reported their sexual assaults to a Defense Department authority, about the same as in fiscal year 2016, according to the report.

The DOD received 6,053 reports of sexual assault by servicemembers for incidents that occurred during military service. The rate for women reporting decreased from 43% to 37% between fiscal years 2016 and 2018 and the rate for men reporting stayed the same for those years at 17%.

The report findings showed 62% of the "most serious sexual assault situations involved alcohol use by the victim or the alleged offender as reported by the victim."

The Marines had the highest rate of sexual assault for women at 10.7%. Klahr said 39% of active-duty women servicemembers are younger than 25 years old, which is the most at-risk group for sexual assault. In the Marine Corps, it is 60%.

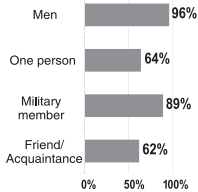
"So certainly age doesn't account for all of it, but it is when we're seeing the largest increases in our youngest folks and the proportion of women in the Marine Corps are primarily this young group, we believe that that explains at least part of why they might be seeing such a significant increase," Klahr said.

The Marine Corps released a statement Thursday about the report's findings that read: "Our Marines have a fundamental right to live and work in an environment free from sexual assault

### Relationship between women and their offenders

The Defense Department's 2018 report on sexual assault in the military found significant increases in sexual assault rates for active-duty women. Here is a statistical breakdown of their relationship to their offenders:

#### Alleged offenders are most often...



**62%** The number of most serious sexual assault situations that involved alcohol use by the victim and/or alleged offender, as reported by the victim.

SOURCE: Defense Department  
BY SCHELLING/Stars and Stripes

and harassment. The Marine Corps is committed to purging these criminal behaviors from our ranks, taking care of victims, and holding offenders accountable."

### Shanahan responds

Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan on Thursday responded to the report findings with the actions that the DOD will take to address the sexual assault in the military.

"To put it bluntly, we are not performing to the standards and expectations we have for ourselves or for each other," he wrote in a memo. "This is unacceptable.

We cannot shrink from facing the challenge head on. We must, and will, do better," he wrote in the memo.

Shanahan's reaction also follows a sexual assault and harassment report for the military service academies that came out earlier this year and has recently established Sexual Assault Accountability and Investigation Task Force that was put together in coordination with Sen. Martha McSally, R-Ariz. In March, McSally said during a hearing on sexual assault in the military that she was raped when she served as a pilot in the Air Force.

Shanahan wrote that the first action by the Defense Department is to take steps to make sexual harassment a stand-alone military crime.

They are also going to launch a "Catch a Serial Offender Program" that will improve the identification of repeat offenders, the memo stated. It will launch in the summer, Burkhardt said, and it will "allow our servicemembers who choose to make a restricted report confidentially [and] identify information about the alleged incident to investigators."

### Reactions in Congress

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., admonished Pentagon leadership Thursday for its failure to rein in the issue of sexual assault within its ranks, telling a top Army leader the problem was just as bad now as it was five years ago when she began advocating for reforms.

"It is unconscionable," Gillibrand told Army Gen. James McConville, the service's vice chief of staff, who was appearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing to consider his nomination for chief of staff.

Gillibrand accused Pentagon leaders of playing lip service to the issue and not taking concrete actions to address the problems, which she said stem from command climates where senior offi-

cers have failed to take the issue seriously.

Gillibrand has long advocated for changing how the military handles sexual assault cases. She wants commanders removed from the process in favor of handing such cases to career prosecutors to decide whether they warrant further investigation or legal action.

She said victims, who tend to be lower ranking than their assailants, have often told her that they did not report their attack because they did not have confidence higher-ups would support them.

"What angers me the most, generally, [is] for the last 25 years, every secretary of defense has told this body, told this public that they have zero tolerance for sexual assault," said Gillibrand, who is seeking the Democratic Party's nomination for president in 2020. "I am tired of excuses. I am tired of statements from commanders stating zero tolerance. I am tired of the statement I get over and over from the chain of command — 'We've got this, ma'am. We've got this.' You don't have it. You are failing us."

She asked McConville to treat the issue as if his own daughter — an active-duty captain assigned to the Army's 3rd Infantry Division — had experienced a sexual assault.

"Yes, senator," replied McConville, who was helped with praise throughout the hearing and appeared poised to be confirmed.

Retired Air Force Col. Don Christensen, once the service's top prosecutor who is now president of the Protect Our Defendants organization that works to end sexual violence in the military, echoed Gillibrand's outrage over the report. He called for lawmakers to remove commanders from the decision-making process on sexual assault cases.

"The numbers are shocking," Christensen, who retired from the Air Force after 23 years in 2014, said in a statement. "It is time for Congress to stop giving

### Fast Facts:

The Defense Department on Thursday release its 2018 report on sexual assault in the military. The report found about 1 in 3 servicemembers who indicated an experience of sexual assault chose to report it to a DOD authority, roughly the same rate as in 2016 and more than quadruple the reporting rate from 10 years ago. Here are several other findings:

■ Sexual assault rates remained steady for men in the active-duty force, with significant increases seen only for active-duty women. Increases were concentrated among women ages 17 to 24 as well as junior enlisted women, who are already at the highest risk for sexual assault.

■ The sexual assault reporting rate for women decreased slightly between fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2018, from 43% to 37%.

■ The sexual assault reporting rate for men stayed the same between fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2018, at 17%.

■ Average odds of experiencing sexual assault for women is 1 in 17 and for men is 1 in 143.

■ Most perpetrators were in the E3 to E5 rank, and alleged perpetrators were often the same grade or a slightly higher grade than the victim.

■ Military commanders had sufficient evidence to take disciplinary action on two-thirds of servicemembers accused of a sexual assault.

SOURCE: Defense Department  
BY SCHELLING/Stars and Stripes

the failing military leadership the benefit of doubt and pass real reform empowering military prosecutors. Enough is enough."

Stars and Stripes staff writer Corey Dickstein contributed to this report. kenney.caitlin@stripes.com  
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## MILITARY



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

## Chief of staff nominee

Gen. James McConville prepares to testify at a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on Thursday as members of the Senate Armed Services Committee considered the general's nomination to become the next chief of staff of the Army. Looking on in the background are from left, McConville's wife, Maria, an Army veteran; his son, Michael, an Army captain; his son-in-law, Ryan Nanzer, an Army staff sergeant; his daughter, Jessica Nanzer, an Army captain; and his son, Ryan, also an Army captain.

## Report: N. Korea wants to help Syria rebuild

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria's state news agency says a visiting North Korea delegation has expressed interest in helping Damascus with reconstruction efforts.

SANA said North Korea's vice foreign minister, Pak Myong Guk, was in Damascus on Wednesday. He was expected to later travel to Iran.

Syria and North Korea are longtime allies.

Deputy Syrian Foreign Minister Fayal Mikdad stressed the need for stronger bilateral cooperation in the face of western economic sanctions.

The war in Syria since 2011 has devastated the country, and billions of dollars are believed needed to rebuild.

North Korea is seeking to expand its commercial ties to reduce its reliance on China.

North Korea said last year it is expecting a visit by the Syrian president.

## Miss. company gets contract to make uniforms for Navy

Associated Press

GOLDEN, Miss. — A company in northeastern Mississippi will receive nearly \$16 million to make U.S. Navy uniforms.

Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith on Thursday announced the 18-month contract award to Golden Manufacturing Co. in Tishomingo County.

The contract is for work to be completed by October 2020, and the Navy has the option to approve one-year extensions for the following three years.

Last month, Golden Manufacturing received an \$18.2 million contract to manufacture uniforms for the Army and Air Force.

## Pa. man who took bribes for military base work sentenced

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — A Pennsylvania man who took bribes in a scheme involving construction projects at two New Jersey military bases is now headed to prison.

Kevin Leondi, 58, received a five-year sentence Wednesday. The Stroudsburg man had pleaded guilty last October to two conspiracy counts.

Federal prosecutors say Leondi

solicited and accepted more than \$150,000 in bribes in the form of cash, the sale of unneeded equipment and work performed at his personal property.

Leondi was employed by the Army as a contract specialist and served as liaison with contractors seeking work at Picatinny Arsenal and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey.

Picatinny is a center for research and development of weapons systems and ammunition.

## Air Force aviators eject as trainer crashes in Okla.

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Military officials at an Air Force base in Texas said Wednesday that one of their training aircraft crashed in southern Oklahoma.

Initial indications show the pilot and co-pilot safely ejected before the T-6 Texan II plane from Sheppard Air Force Base went down near Lake Waurika just across the state line in Oklahoma, according to a statement from the base. Emergency crews were responding to the crash that occurred just after 2 p.m. local time, base officials said.

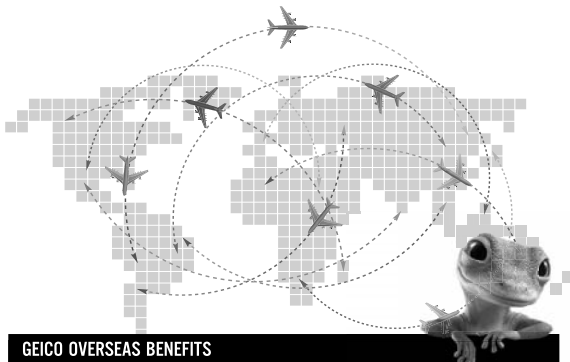
The Air Force was launching an investigation, the officials

said, declining to release further details about the incident.

Sheppard, just north of Wichita Falls in northern Texas, is home to the Air Force's 80th Flying Training Wing, which teaches American and partner nation student pilots to fly using the T-6 Texan II aircraft, a single-engine, two-seat propeller plane, and the T-38 Talon, a twin-engine jet trainer.

The crash Wednesday was the second for a Sheppard aircraft in recent months. A T-38 crashed in September, but both pilots — a German and an American — escaped serious injury after ejecting.

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## NATION

## Dems attack Barr for his no-show

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General William Barr skipped a House hearing Thursday on special counsel Robert Mueller's Trump-Russia report, escalating an already acrimonious battle between Democrats and President Donald Trump's Justice Department. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi suggested Barr had already lied to Congress in other testimony and called that a "crime."

Barr's decision to avoid the hearing, made after a disagreement with the House Judiciary Committee over questioning, came the day after the department also missed the committee's deadline to provide it with a full, unredacted version of Mueller's report and its underlying evidence. In all, it's likely to prompt a vote on holding Barr in contempt and possibly the issuance of subpoenas, bringing House Democrats and the Trump administration closer to a prolonged battle in court.

Democrats convened a short hearing that included an empty chair with a place card set for Barr. Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, of New York, said that if the attorney general doesn't provide the committee "with the information it demands and the respect that it deserves, Mr. Barr's moment of accountability will come soon enough." Shortly afterward, Pelosi escalated the tensions further. In possible reference to the attorney general's testimony last month, Pelosi said Barr "was not telling the truth to the Congress of the United States — that's a crime."

Barr told senators on April 10 that he didn't know whether Mueller agreed with his conclusions about the report, including Barr's assertion that Mueller hadn't found enough evidence to support a charge of obstruction of justice. Democrats have raised questions about that testimony since it was revealed this week that Mueller had written Barr on March 27 complaining that the attorney general had not properly portrayed his findings in a four-page memo summarizing the report's main conclusions.

Barr said Wednesday his answer was not misleading because he had been in touch with Mueller, rather than members of his team, and that the concerns were mostly about process and not substance. Within minutes of Pelosi's comments, Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec called her words "reckless, irresponsible and false."

Pelosi also said the administration's refusal to respect subpoenas by a House committee is "very, very serious" and noted that ignoring congressional subpoenas was one of the articles of impeachment



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

**Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., a member of the House Judiciary Committee, provides symbolic props Thursday on Capitol Hill as the panel waits for Attorney General William Barr, who refused to testify at the hearing on the Mueller report.**

against former President Richard Nixon.

As Democrats portrayed Barr as untruthful, they sought to speak to Mueller. Nadler said the panel hoped the special counsel would appear before the committee on May 15 and the panel was "firming up the date."

It's unclear whether Barr will eventually negotiate an appearance with the House panel. Nadler said he would not immediately issue a subpoena for Barr's appearance but would first focus on getting the full Mueller report, likely including a vote holding Barr in contempt of Congress.

While a contempt vote would make a strong statement, it is unlikely to force the Justice Department to hand over the report. A vote of the full House on contempt would send a criminal referral to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia — a Justice Department official who is likely to defend the administration's interests. But even if the U.S. attorney declines to prosecute, Democrats could pursue other avenues in court or even issue fines against witnesses who fail to appear.

"In the past they had a House jail," said Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Calif., a member of the Judiciary panel. "I don't think we're going to go that far, but courts have upheld that."

At Barr's no-show hearing, Democratic members of the committee had fun with the spectacle, passing around fried chicken and placing a prop chicken by Barr's unused microphone to underscore their contention that he was afraid to appear. One lawmaker jokingly looked under the desk to make sure Barr wasn't there.

Republicans were not amused by the antics or Nadler's tough talk.

"The reason Bill Barr isn't here today is because the Democrats decided they didn't want him here today," said the top Republican on the panel, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins. Nadler had demanded that staff attorneys, in addition to lawmakers, be allowed to question Barr. Barr said he wouldn't attend under that condition.

The attorney general's cancellation meant he would avoid another round of sharp questioning after testifying Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Democrats on the panel contended that Barr was protecting Trump after he assessed Mueller's report on his own and declared there wasn't enough evidence that the president had committed obstruction of justice. Mueller didn't charge Trump with obstruction but wrote that he couldn't exonerate him, either.

## Trump's allies seek progress on disaster aid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House is displaying new flexibility in giving disaster aid to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico as President Donald Trump's GOP allies increasingly lose patience with a week-long standoff over the widely backed bill.

A new Senate GOP offer is aimed at breaking the logjam in delivering funding already appropriated to Puerto Rico. Trump has feuded with Democratic officials on the U.S. territory and has sharply criticized Puerto Rico's handling of the disaster.

The latest offer, relayed Monday in a meeting of the chairman and top Democrat of the Senate Appropriations Committee, hasn't won over Democrats, according to party aides. They are reviewing the latest plan but are looking for changes to make sure the money for Puerto Rico doesn't get hung up by bureaucratic snags. The administration has been slow to disperse money that's been already approved.

"We think it could be more palatable to them... to the Democrats," Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., told reporters after a Wednesday meeting with GOP senators from Georgia and Florida. "We thought we made a pretty good offer and the vibes maybe are better than they were. Nothing's crystalized."

A summary of the offer relayed by a GOP aide says Puerto Rico would stand to gain an additional \$304 million from a new pot of \$431 million for 2017 storms, but Republicans rejected a Democratic demand for Environmental Protection Agency water and wastewater projects.

Patience is running out among a group of Senate Republicans from states hit hard by hurricanes last fall, including Trump allies like David Perdue, of Georgia, and Rick Scott, of Florida, because the legislation includes aid to the mainland U.S. as well. A meeting with Trump almost three weeks ago was supposed to jump-start negotiations, but no progress was made during a two-week recess, top aides said.

At issue is a \$14 billion — and growing — disaster aid measure that was blocked by Senate Democrats earlier this month in the standoff over Puerto Rico. Democrats are demanding additional funding to help repair Puerto Rico's water systems and to give the cash-poor island disaster aid on more generous terms. Trump has already agreed to \$600 million in food aid to restore cuts to the island's food stamp benefits.

## US searches of phones, laptops at airports rising, suit says

By DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. government searches of travelers' cellphones and laptops at airports and border crossings nearly quadrupled since 2015 and were being done for reasons beyond customs and immigration enforcement, according to papers filed Tuesday in a federal lawsuit that claims scouring the electronic devices without a warrant is unconstitutional.

The government has vigorously defended the searches, which rose to 33,295 in fiscal 2018, as a critical tool to protect America. But the newly filed documents claim the scope of the warrantless searches has expanded to assist in enforcement of tax, bankruptcy, environmental and consumer

protection laws, gather intelligence and advance criminal investigations.

Agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement consider requests from other government agencies in determining whether to search travelers' electronic devices, the court papers said. They added that agents are searching the electronic devices of not only targeted individuals but their associates, friends and relatives.

The new information about the searches was included in a motion the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Massachusetts.

"The evidence we have presented the court shows that the scope of ICE and CBP border searches is unconstitutional-

ally broad," said Adam Schwartz, senior staff attorney for the EFF, based in San Francisco.

"ICE and CBP policies and practices allow unfettered, warrantless searches of travelers' digital devices and empower officers to dodge the Fourth Amendment when rifling through highly personal information contained on laptops and phones," he said.

The Department of Homeland Security did not respond to a request for comment. Both ICE and CBP said they did not comment on pending litigation.

When the suit was filed against the government in 2017, DHS officials said U.S. citizens and everyone else are subject to examination and search by customs officials unless exempted by diplomatic

status. The department has contended that no court has concluded that border searches of electronic devices require a warrant. Searches, some random, have uncovered evidence of human trafficking, terrorism, child pornography, visa fraud, export control breaches and intellectual property rights violations, according to the department.

The original case was filed on behalf of 10 American citizens and a lawful permanent resident from seven states — including two journalists, a NASA engineer and a former Air Force captain — who alleged the searches violated their constitutional rights. They asked the court to rule that the government must serve a warrant based on probable cause before searching electronic devices at U.S. ports of entry.

## NATION

# 'A hero': Student slain stopping gunman praised

By TOM FOREMAN JR.  
AND JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A North Carolina college student slain while confronting a gunman in his classroom was being given a hero's send-off Thursday as his body is taken back to his hometown with a police escort.

Riley Howell's body was scheduled to depart from a Charlotte funeral home Thursday morning en route to Waynesville in the western part of the state.

Meanwhile, the suspect accused of killing Howell and another student at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, while wounding four others, was due to appear in the afternoon to face charges including murder and attempted murder.

Howell died in his classroom Tuesday, charging and tackling the suspect who opened fire with a legally obtained pistol, authorities said.

Howell's decision to fight for the lives of others fit his character, said his friend David Belpap, who attended a candlelight vigil Wednesday with a homemade T-shirt with "Riley Howell is a hero" written on the back.

Howell, 21, likely went through the same active shooter drills as countless other students of his generation. They were taught to run away if they can, hide if they can't run and if the horrible situation arises where a gunman pre-

vents those two choices — fight for their lives.

Howell knocked the assailant down, buying enough time for the first officer into the classroom to capture Trystan Andrew Terrell, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said.

"His sacrifice saved lives," the chief said.

Howell was with classmates for end-of-year presentations in an anthropology class when the shooting happened.

In a statement, UNC-Charlotte said all the victims were students, five from North Carolina and one international. Howell, of Waynesville, and Ellis R. Parlier, 19, of Midland, were killed. Those wounded were Sean Dehart, 20, and Drew Pescaro, 19, both of Apex; Emily Houpt, 23, of Charlotte; and Rami Alramadhan, 20, of Saihat, Saudi Arabia.

The suspect's motive wasn't clear. Terrell had been enrolled at the school but withdrew this semester, UNC-Charlotte spokeswoman Buffy Stephens said. Campus Police Chief Jeff Baker said Terrell had not appeared on their radar as a potential threat.

"I just went into a classroom and shot the guys," Terrell told reporters Tuesday as officers led him handcuffed into a law enforcement building.

Terrell is under observation in police custody, and his father and attorney haven't been allowed to speak to him, his grandfather Paul Rold said.



MATTHEW WESTMORELAND/AP

Riley Howell, right, shown on Sept. 1, 2017, was killed after he tackled a gunman who opened fire in a classroom at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

Terrell was on the autism spectrum but was "clever as can be" and bright enough to learn foreign languages, Rold said from his home in Arlington, Texas. He said his grandson wasn't very social.

On Wednesday night, thousands of students and others thronged the school's basketball arena for a campus vigil. Student body president Chandler Crean wiped away tears as the school chancellor said they couldn't emerge unchanged from Tuesday's shooting but they could emerge stronger. He later said the university needs to use the shock of what happened to make the world better.

"What happened yesterday cannot happen again," Crean said.

The father of Howell's longtime girlfriend said news that he tackled the shooter wasn't surprising. Kevin Westmoreland, whose daughter Lauren dated Howell for nearly six years, said Howell was athletic and compassionate.

He was "a big, muscular guy with a huge heart," Howell's family said in a statement Wednesday.

"He always was able to put oth-



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Students pray together during a vigil at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte on Wednesday after an assailant with a pistol killed two people and wounded four others Tuesday.

ers before himself and never hesitated to help anyone who needed it," the statement read.

Howell was enrolled in a second semester of ROTC courses at UNC-Charlotte, though he wasn't among those pursuing a career as a military officer, said Lt. Col. Chunka Smith, who runs the school's Army ROTC program.

Howell would have been taught in ROTC to seek cover if confronted by a gunman rather than fight, Smith said.

"But I just believe it's inherent in those who take the class, based off of their backgrounds and their upbringing ... that someone would actually sacrifice themselves for others," Smith said.

## Fla. lawmakers pass bill allowing more armed teachers

By CURT ANDERSON  
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — More Florida classroom teachers could carry guns in school under a bill passed Wednesday by state lawmakers, the latest response to last year's mass shooting at a Parkland high school.

The Republican-led House voted 65-47 on Wednesday to send the bill to GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is expected to sign it. The measure expands an existing school "guardian" program to allow any teacher to volunteer to carry a weapon if their local school district approves.

"It allows the good guys to stop the bad. The bad guys will never know when the good guys are there to shoot back," said Republican Rep. Chuck Brannan, of Lake City, a retired law enforcement officer. "The guardian is the last line of defense. He or she

will be there when a police officer is not."

Teachers who want to carry guns in districts that choose to join the program would have to undergo police-style training, psychiatric evaluation and drug screening. Under a law passed last year immediately after the Parkland shooting, only teachers who also have another role, such as sports coach, are eligible to carry weapons on campus.

The bill comes after 17 people were killed by a rifle-toting shooter at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February 2018. Nikolas Cruz, 20, faces the death penalty if convicted of those slayings.

New Broward County Sheriff Gregory Tony, who was appointed by DeSantis after the suspension of former Sheriff Scott Israel in the aftermath of the Parkland shooting, said in a letter Wednesday to the local school board and



STEVE CANNON/AP

Rep. Susan Valdes, D-Tampa, takes part in a debate on a bill to allow teachers to be armed during a legislative session Wednesday in Tallahassee, Fla.

superintendent that he opposes arming teachers in schools.

"This program would place students, teachers, and first responders at risk, when our focus should be on keeping our children safe and making schools places where students feel they belong,"

Tony wrote. "Teachers enter that profession to educate children, not to serve as school security."

Most Democrats voted against the bill, contending that introducing more weapons into schools would place children at risk, raise the dangers of mistaken shootings and even lead to more violence against black students because of inherent biases. Several mentioned an incident Tuesday in Pasco County along Florida's west coast in which a police officer assigned to a middle school had his gun discharge in a cafeteria. No one was hurt.

"We see accidents happen every day," said Rep. Susan Valdes, a Tampa Democrat. "This is not the answer. Don't put more guns in our schools."

The bill was strongly opposed by teachers unions, and school boards in some of Florida's most counties have voted against joining the guardian program, prefer-

ring instead to leave the security job to trained police officers.

But the bill's sponsor, Republican Rep. Jennifer Sullivan, of Eustis, said it was the best opportunity to protect schoolchildren from future shooters — and noted it was purely voluntary for teachers to become armed guardians.

"If a teacher does not want to be a guardian, we don't require them. This bill does not require districts to arm teachers," said Sullivan, chair of the House Education Committee.

The legislation also contains a number of other school safety measures, such as wider disclosure of certain student mental health records and mental screening of troubled students, greater reporting of school safety and student discipline incidents, and a requirement that law enforcement officials be consulted about any threats.



## NATION

# Budget office: Drawbacks with 'Medicare for All'

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
AND ALAN FRAM  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional budget experts said Wednesday that moving to a government-run health care system like "Medicare for All" could be complicated and potentially disruptive for Americans.

The report from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office was a high-level look at the pros and cons of changing the current mix of public and private health care financing to a system paid for entirely by the government. It did not include cost estimates of Sen. Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All legislation or its House counterpart but raised dozens of issues lawmakers would confront.

"The transition toward a single-payer system could be complicated, challenging and potentially disruptive," the report said. "Policymakers would need to consider how quickly people with private insurance would switch their coverage to a new public plan, what would happen to workers in the health insurance industry if private insurance was banned or its role was limited, and how quickly provider payment rates under the single-payer system would be phased in from current levels."

One unintended consequence could be increased wait times and reduced access to care if there are not enough medical providers to meet an expected increased demand for services as some 29 million currently uninsured people get coverage and as deductibles and copayments are reduced or eliminated for everyone else.

"An expansion of insurance coverage under a single-payer system would increase the demand for care and put pressure on the available supply of care," the report said.

Sanders, I-Vt., pushed back,

telling reporters that what's really disruptive is that millions of Americans remain uninsured while others can't afford high copays and drug prices.

Employers now cover more than 160 million people, roughly half the U.S. population. Medicare covers seniors and disabled people. Medicaid covers low-income people and many nursing home residents. Other government programs serve children or military veterans.

Proponents of Medicare for All say the complexity of the U.S. system wastes billions in administrative costs and enables hospitals and drugmakers to charge much higher prices than providers get in other economically advanced countries. Critics acknowledge the U.S. has a serious cost problem, but they point out that patients don't usually have to wait for treatment and that new drugs are generally available much more rapidly than in other countries.

While a government-run system could improve the overall health profile of the U.S., pressure on providers to curb costs could reduce the quality of care by by causing them "to supply less care to patients covered by the public plan," the report said.

Private payments from employers and individuals currently cover close to half of the nation's annual \$3.5 trillion health care bill. A government-run system would entail new taxes, including income taxes, payroll taxes or consumption taxes, said the CBO. Or lawmakers could borrow, adding to the overhang of national debt.

Several independent studies of Sanders' plan have estimated it would dramatically increase government spending, from \$25 trillion to \$35 trillion or more over 10 years. Supporters say the expense could be much lower if expected savings are factored in.



Courtesy of Steam

Scorpion, one of *Mortal Kombat*'s fighters, hurls his signature chain-and-spear combination weapon.

## Mortal Kombat among 4 inductees into the Video Game Hall of Fame

Associated Press

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — *Mortal Kombat*, the blood-and-guts arcade game that triggered Congressional hearings and age-level game ratings, was inducted Thursday into the World Video Game Hall of Fame, along with *Colossal Cave Adventure*, *Super Mario Kart* and the ubiquitous *Solitaire* game built into Microsoft Windows.

The 2019 inductees were honored for their impacts on video gaming and pop culture and their popularity over time and across countries.

*Mortal Kombat* quickly raised alarms when it launched in 1992, with critics taking aim at a feature giving players the gory choice of whether to kill by decapitating an opponent or ripping out their heart.

"Beyond its controversial content and role in triggering debate about the role of violent video games in society, *Mortal Kombat*'s compelling gameplay, iconic characters and many sequels have kept players coming back again and again," Digital Games Curator Andrew Borman said in a news release.

*Mortal Kombat 11* launched last week.

The World Video Game Hall



COURTESY OF THE STRONG MUSEUM/AP

These video games were inducted into the World Video Game Hall of Fame on Thursday.

of Fame is housed at The Strong museum in Rochester and recognizes individual electronic games of all types — arcade, console, computer, hand-held and mobile.

While anyone can nominate a game, the 4-year-old hall chooses inductees with input from journalists, scholars and others with video game expertise.

Microsoft *Solitaire* was honored for helping fuel the growth of today's popular casual gaming market. Since debuting in 1991 on Windows 3.0, the electronic version of the centuries-old card

game has been installed on more than 1 billion computers around the world, according to The Strong.

*Super Mario Kart* was released in 1992 and put the popular *Super Mario Bros.* characters into go-karts.

The 1974 *Colossal Cave Adventure* was recognized for laying the foundation for a genre of fantasy and adventure games, despite having no graphics and relying on players typing rudimentary computer commands like "get lamp."

## New rules for federal employees set time-off policy for religious observances

By ERIC YODER  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Federal agencies generally would have to approve requests from their employees to change their work schedules for religious observances under new rules that spell out what is required of both the employee and the agency.

While the government traditionally has allowed employees to make up for time missed for religious observances by working longer hours at other times,

the practice was defined only in broad terms. The new, more detailed rules, issued this week, take effect May 29.

For example, while both sets of rules state that agencies must approve an employee's request unless it would interfere with the agency's mission, the new rules add that the agency must explain a denial in writing. Employees making a request must now further provide a "name and/or description" of the observance, when they would be absent and when they would make up the

work.

While the rules apply only where the employee's personal religious beliefs "require" that the employee be off from work for religious reasons, the new ones say that an absence from work "need not be officially mandated by a religious organization to which the employee belongs."

Also, while the prior rules were open-ended regarding when employees could work the makeup hours, the new policy specifies that it would have to be between six months before and six months

after an absence. If an equivalent amount of time isn't worked by the deadline, the agency could dock the employee's vacation time or certain other forms of paid leave.

The rules "serve to highlight an important flexibility that can be used to help agencies recruit and retain employees that want to attend religious observances," the Office of Personnel Management said in a memo.

"Agency officials are not charged with determining whether an employee's belief is the cor-

rect interpretation of a religious creed," it added. "It is sufficient that the employee's sincerely held personal religious beliefs cause the employee to feel an obligation that he or she should be absent from work for a religious purpose."

The Senior Executives Association, the professional association for career members of the Senior Executive Service, praised the rules for striking a balance between employees' religious rights and agencies' interests in getting the work done.

## WORLD



TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHE/AP

A family on Wednesday picks up a few items from their house, which was damaged by Cyclone Kenneth when it struck Ibo island north of Pemba city in Mozambique.

## On cyclone-shattered island in Mozambique, shock and debris

Associated Press

**IBO ISLAND, Mozambique** — Cyclone Kenneth in northern Mozambique ripped the island of Ibo apart. Nearly a week after the storm roared in, a visit by The Associated Press found widespread devastation.

Roofs were peeled away from the overwhelming majority of homes. Wells are contaminated, leaving drinking water and the possibility of cholera a growing concern. The aerial approach to the island showed communities flattened.

Thousands of residents who were shocked by the region's first cyclone recorded in the modern age are now trying to piece together shattered lives.

It took days for significant aid to reach Ibo as rains have lashed the region since Cyclone Kenneth hit on April 25 with the force of a Category 4 hurricane, killing at least 41 people.

Fragile signs of recovery have emerged, but the tasks of finding shelter, food and medicine and rebuilding are immense. People are hungry.

Tourist guides had described the island's scenery as "stunning" and "beautiful." Ruins from centuries ago used to draw tourists to Ibo, which has a rich history dating to the slavery trade. Now, even those ruins are gone.

Already beset by poverty, most residents have lost everything.

The desperation among the roughly 6,000 residents is palpable after days of incessant rains and nights of sleeping in the open or under makeshift shelters.

At the tiny, bumpy airstrip, children and adults waited eagerly to welcome the aircraft that have begun to bring supplies. Trucks soon made their way a few kilometers over a dusty road to the heart of the island.

Palm trees have been uprooted, blocking roads and lying on de-

stroyed houses. Many buildings of brick, wooden poles and mud have been razed.

"We need help," said Bonface Mulashe, who teaches French and has lived on the island for a decade.

An elderly woman, with the aid of a walking stick, passed by, awestruck by the damage.

One family ate outside, surrounded by a makeshift shelter of metal sheets. Women, faces painted white as part of local tradition, picked through the rubble.

On Matemo island, the aid group Save the Children found similar devastation.

"The hospital, the mosque and the bank are the only buildings left standing," Nick Finney, the response team leader, said in a statement. "Residents are in shock. When the cyclone hit, they had to crawl on the ground because if they stood up, they would be blown away."

## Opposition looks to keep pressure on in Venezuela

The Washington Post

**CARACAS, Venezuela** — Venezuela's opposition sought Thursday to maintain pressure on President Nicolas Maduro through further protests as the embattled socialist leader convened a weekend of dialogue to critique his mandate and fine-tune "the revolution."

Following a failed attempt Tuesday to stage a peaceful military revolt and overthrow Maduro, the opposition was facing a limited array of options.

Opposition leader Juan Guaido on Wednesday called on Venezuelans to stage daily protests until Maduro leaves. The campaign, opposition officials said, included an appeal to public servants to show civil disobedience by wearing blue armbands to work.

After two days of violent protests that left two people dead and dozens wounded, the opposition was banking on a resilient populace to continue the effort — though it remained unclear how exhausted, crisis-battered Venezuelans would respond. Guaido insisted late Wednesday that political change remains within Venezuela's grasp.

"As long as we are mobilized and united, we are very close to achieving our freedom," Guaido said on Fox Business Network. "Can't tell you a specific date or time. Working on transition. Democracy has always taken time."

At 6 a.m. Thursday, Maduro appeared at a military base in western Caracas alongside Vladimir Padrino Lopez, a member of the president's inner circle who the Trump administration has said was negotiating his ouster.

"The empty is investing in dividing us and say there's a civil war in Venezuela," Maduro said,

referring to the U.S. "They say they have to intervene, to weaken our homeland. No matter the circumstance we have to be united, and that's what loyalty is. It has to be a collective strength."

The Trump administration has said that Maduro was prepared Tuesday to abandon office and flee to Havana before being stopped by the Russians — a claim that Maduro strongly denied. Also on Fox, President Donald Trump appeared less certain late Wednesday about Russian involvement, saying, "You hear rumors ... rumors about Russia and a lot about Cuba."

Washington has also said that senior officials in Maduro's administration have been negotiating his departure. On Tuesday, Maduro replaced his intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Manuel Ricardo Cristopher Figueroa, after he appeared to defect to the opposition.

Thousands did answer Guaido's call to demonstrate on Wednesday, but they were confronted by security forces firing tear gas as the opposition struggled to regain momentum.

The lack of response by the army and police to Guaido's call for revolt left opposition supporters grappling with a sense of a pivotal moment lost. Many in the ranks remained resolute after a day of violence that left dozens injured and more detained. But there were also strains of confusion and disappointment.

"Yesterday, there were failures," Mirna Pinto, 69, a retired nurse, said Wednesday. "I expected something else."

But she nevertheless joined the opposition protests. "Success will come the day Maduro goes," she said.



BUREAU OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD/AP

Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn, right, presents a gift to Queen Suthida Vajiralongkorn Na Ayudhya at Ampornsan Throne Hall in Bangkok, Thailand, on Wednesday.

## King of Thailand marries bodyguard

The Washington Post

Thailand King Maha Vajiralongkorn has married his bodyguard and made her queen.

The royal announcement that Suthida Tidjai, 40, a former flight attendant, is now queen comes just days before the king's coronation. The king took over as the top royal in 2016 when his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, passed away.

The king's coronation is Saturday. He has not given a reason for the three-year delay.

Per the royal statement, the king "has decided to promote General Suthida Vajiralongkorn Na Ayudhya, his royal consort, to

become Queen Suthida and she will hold royal title and status as part of the royal family."

Vajiralongkorn, 66, is hardly the first royal to marry a commoner. The duchesses of Cambridge and Sussex (also known as Kate and Meghan) are both commoners, and so, too, was Michiko Shoda, who became empress when Japanese Emperor Akihito, who abdicated the throne earlier this week, married her in 1959. (While Akihito and the new emperor, Naruhito, were both allowed to marry commoners and remain royal, the same cannot be said for the women in his family; Japanese Princess Aiko gave up her title to marry a commoner in

2018.)

But Suthida's story is somewhat different. The king made her deputy commander of his bodyguard unit in 2014 when he was still crown prince. In 2016, she was made a full general. In 2017, she was made deputy commander of the personal guard he was now due as king.

While their romantic relationship has been rumored for a while, it became public only when the king announced he'd married her, making her his fourth wife and queen.

In part, that's because of Thailand's ill-majesty laws, which make it illegal to insult or criticize the king or queen.

## WORLD

# UK's fired defense secretary denies Huawei leak

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's former defense secretary ferociously denied allegations that he leaked details from private government discussions about the Chinese telecommunications company Huawei, as opposition leaders called Thursday for a criminal investigation into the scandal.

Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson was fired late Wednesday by Prime Minister Theresa May, who said she had seen "compelling evidence" that he was behind media reports that the government had agreed — against the advice of the United States — to let Huawei participate in some aspects of Britain's new 5G wireless com-

munications network.

It was the first time in decades that a senior minister has been fired over leaks of sensitive information.

Williamson hit back, telling Sky News that the investigation had been a "witch hunt" and claiming he was the victim of a "kangaroo court with a summary execution."

Allies of Williamson rallied to his support, demanding that May's government publish the evidence against him.

"Natural justice requires that the evidence is produced so that his reputation can be salvaged or utterly destroyed," said Conservative lawmaker Desmond Swayne.

The firing of Williamson was a dramatic display of the divisions and ill discipline that is rolling Britain's Conservative-led government.

With May weakened by her failure so far to take Britain out of the European Union, multiple ministers are positioning themselves to try to replace her, partly by cultivating positive press coverage.

Williamson was named in a Daily Telegraph report last week as being one of several ministers alleged to have opposed letting Huawei work on Britain's 5G infrastructure.

The United States has been lobbying allies including Britain to exclude Huawei from all 5G networks, noting that the Chi-

nese government can force the company to give it backdoor access to data on its networks.

Opposition Labour Party deputy leader Tom Watson said the leak from a top-secret meeting of Britain's National Security Council was "indicative of the malaise and sickness at the heart of this ailing government."

He called for a criminal investigation into leaks from the security council, which is made up of senior ministers who receive briefings from military and intelligence chiefs.

Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington said the government did not plan to refer the matter to police.

## Justice minister in Cyprus resigns over serial killer case

Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The justice minister in Cyprus resigned Thursday amid mounting criticism that police bungled their investigations when some of the seven foreign women and girls slain by a serial killer were initially reported missing.

A Cypriot army captain has admitted to killing the women and girls. Even as the minister resigned, police on Thursday kept searching a lake and a reservoir for the bodies of three of the victims.

The victims, who came to this eastern

Mediterranean island to work in low-paid jobs, include three Filipino women and the 6-year-old daughter of one of them. Other victims are believed to be a woman from Nepal and a Romanian woman and her 8-year-old daughter.

Critics say Cypriot police did little to investigate the disappearances of the women because they were low-status foreign workers.

Police Chief Zacharias Chrysostomou is slated to meet with the Cypriot president on Friday amid speculation he may also be on his way out.

Search crews continued to scour the bottom of a poisonous mining lake west of the capital, Nicosia, where the suspect — who hasn't been named because he hasn't been formally charged yet — told police that he dumped three of his victims after putting their bodies inside suitcases.

Justice Minister Ionas Nicolaou said he was stepping down as a matter of "conscience and principle" because the killings that authorities have described as unprecedented have deeply shaken the island nation of just over a million people.

But Nicolaou said it was "completely un-

fair" to blame either himself or the government for any investigative lapses in police handling of the missing persons' reports because a minister "doesn't get involved nor should he get involved" in those investigations. He said law enforcement authorities never informed him of such reports.

Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades said he would meet Friday with diplomats from countries with a large number of domestic workers living in Cyprus to express his sorrow for the victims and to apologize on behalf of the nation for "failures in the handling of these cases."

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman stung by bees as hive falls on head

**AZ** TEMPE — An Arizona woman is recovering from more than 20 bee stings after heavy winds blew a hive off a tree and it landed on her head. Firefighters in the Phoenix suburb of Tempe said it happened as the woman picked up her child from daycare.

Assistant Chief Andrea Glass said the woman happened to be walking under the tree where the hive was when wind blew it off.

Glass said the woman was stung 20 to 30 times on and around her head.

She was evaluated and opted to have her husband drive her to a hospital.

## Test dummies fall off roller coaster

**NJ** OCEAN CITY — The operators of a New Jersey shore amusement park said a roller coaster there is safe after a pair of water-filled test dummies fell off during a recent test ride.

The GaleForce roller coaster at Playland's Castaway Cove in Ocean City was undergoing a routine safety check April 20 when the dummies plummeted into a hotel next door, damaging the building's shingles and plywood.

Park officials said the dummies had undetected leaks that made them lose their mass and shape, causing them to fall.

Officials said the coaster has run problem-free since the mishap and is tested daily for about two hours.

## Spanish museum can keep looted painting

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A federal judge in Los Angeles ruled that a Spanish museum that acquired a priceless, Nazi-looted painting in 1992 is the work's rightful owner, not the survivors of the Jewish woman who surrendered it to escape the Holocaust.

U.S. District Judge John F. Walter ruled Tuesday that under Spanish law, Madrid's Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum is entitled to keep the Camille Pissarro painting, "Rue St.-Honore, Apres-Midi, Effet de Pluie."

The oil-on-canvas painting has been the subject of a bitter fight between the museum and the Southern California family of Lilly Cassirer since her family discovered it in 1999.

## Traveler says moose nuggets are a protest

**AK** JUNEAU — Politics can stink.

That was the message delivered by a traveler to airport inspectors in Alaska who found moose nuggets inside his carry-on bag.

KTOO Public Media reported the man told agents he collects the droppings and likes to present it "for politicians and their bleep policies."

TSA spokeswoman Lisa Farbszwang said the discovery didn't warrant writing a report and the man was sent on his way with the



COURTESY OF ROSANNE FOLEY/AP

## Hitching a ride

A squirrel is perched on the arm of a passenger on the Red Line Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority commuter trolley Monday. Commuters said the squirrel bounded onto the Red Line trolley at an aboveground stop, frightening some people at first, but warming their hearts when it snuggled in a passenger's arms. The squirrel was let off at another aboveground station.

poop.

It's not known if it was the same person, but a man was seen passing out baggies of moose nuggets at the Capitol on the same day as a protest against the governor's proposed budget.

## Honor Flight believed struck by lightning

**IL** PEORIA — Sun Country Airlines said lightning apparently struck its charter aircraft that was carrying Greater Peoria Honor Flight veterans from Illinois to Washington, D.C.

The (Peoria) Journal Star reported the airline said flight 8657 "landed safely and without incident" at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on Tuesday morning. Sun Country said in a statement that "after landing,

maintenance observed evidence of a lightning strike."

Greater Peoria Honor Flight's website said the organization takes veterans free to Washington to see memorials.

## Shipwreck hunters write of discoveries

**NY** ROCHESTER — Three western New York-based shipwreck hunters who have discovered some of the most significant historic wrecks in the Great Lakes have written a book about their explorations.

"Shipwrecks of Lake Ontario: A Journey of Discovery" was written by Jim Kennard, of Fairport; Roland Stevens, of Pulteneyville; and Roger Pawlowski, of Gates.

The trio's book chronicles their discovery of more than two dozen

shipwrecks in Lake Ontario.

The team's most significant discovery came in 2008, when it found the wreck of the HMS Ontario, a British warship that sank in 1780 during the Revolutionary War.

## Firefighter denies going in store nude

**MA** LYNN — A Massachusetts firefighter who police say walked naked into a Rhode Island convenience store on a dare to buy a soda said it never happened.

Lynnfield fire Capt. John Walsh was charged with disorderly conduct after an employee at the Middletown store reported the nude customer April 3.

Walsh and a woman, both clothed, were pulled over a short

## THE CENSUS

**22K** The number of counterfeit Barbie dolls for which federal prosecutors of the Canada-Minnesota border want a court to issue an arrest warrant. The warrant would give U.S. Customs and Border Protection permission to destroy the knockoff dolls, which were shipped by a Hong Kong exporter and seized in October 2017. The dolls were intended for distribution to Dollar Tree stores in the United States. The civil filing alleges that the "defendant," CEO Barbie dolls, and their packaging violate federal copyright, trademark and other protections.



time later. The police report said that when asked, Walsh admitted entering the store naked on a dare from his girlfriend.

Walsh told The Daily Item of Lynn "the bulk of the allegation is untrue" and disputes the officer's report.

## Police: Man flushed grandparents' ashes

**PA** MCKEESPORT — Authorities said a western Pennsylvania man flushed his grandparents' ashes down a toilet after his mother kicked him out of her home.

The Tribune-Review reported that Thomas Wells, 33, was arraigned on two counts of abuse of a corpse and a criminal mischief charge.

McKeesport police said the Pittsburgh man had been staying with his mother for a brief time before she asked him to leave in September.

The mother told police in early February that a relative told her Wells had flushed her parents' ashes before he left.

## High school pitchers toss gems on same day

**NM** CARLSBAD — A softball pitcher and a baseball pitcher from the same New Mexico high school threw a perfect game and no-hitter, respectively, within 90 minutes of each other.

The Carlsbad Current-Argus reported Carlsbad High School softball pitcher Ashley Hernandez and baseball pitcher T.J. Ruiz tossed their gems on April 18 just a few hundred feet apart.

Hernandez needed 43 pitches against Roswell High School in five innings to record the perfect game as Carlsbad won 11-0 in a run-rule game.

Ruiz threw all seven innings in a 9-0 victory against Clovis High School.

From wire reports



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## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Beyond Meat goes public as 'meat' sales rise

By DEE-ANN DURBIN

Associated Press

Beyond Meat is ready for more.

The El Segundo, Calif.-based maker of plant-based burgers and sausages will make its debut on the Nasdaq stock exchange Thursday. It's the first pure-play maker of vegan "meat" to go public, according to Renaissance Capital, which researches and tracks IPOs.

Beyond Meat raised about \$240 million selling 9.6 million shares at \$25 each. That values the com-

pany at about \$1.5 billion.

The 10-year-old company has attracted celebrity investors like Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and actor Leonardo DiCaprio and buzz for placing its products in burger joints like Carl's Jr. It sells to 30,000 grocery stores, restaurants and schools in the U.S., Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom and Israel.

Still, Beyond Meat has never made an annual profit. It's also facing serious competition from other "new meat" companies like Impossible Foods and traditional players like Tyson Foods Inc.

Tyson recently sold a stake in Beyond Meat because it plans to develop its own alternative meat.

The IPO comes amid growing consumer interest in plant-based foods for their presumed health and environmental benefits. U.S. sales of plant-based meats jumped 42% between March 2016 and March 2019 to a total of \$888 million, according to Nielsen. Traditional meat sales rose 1% to \$85 billion in that same time frame.

Health comparisons are mixed. A four-ounce 92% lean burger from Laura's Lean Beef has

higher fat and cholesterol than a Beyond Meat burger, but Beyond Meat's burger has higher sodium and carbohydrates and slightly less protein. The lean beef burger is 160 calories; a Beyond Meat burger is 270 calories.

Beyond Meat also costs more. For \$5.99, consumers can get two 4-ounce patties of Beyond Burger or four 4-ounce patties of Laura's Lean Beef.

But Beyond Meat touts environmental benefits as well. The company says a plant-based burger takes 99% less water and 93% less land to produce than a beef

burger and generates 90% fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

For investors, the stock is not without risk. Beyond Meat lost \$30 million last year, and it must continue to spend heavily on research and development.

Renaissance Capital, which has researched the company, says investors will likely tolerate those losses because the company is growing so quickly. Beyond Meat's net revenue was \$87.9 million last year, 170% higher than in 2017.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 3)	\$1.1500
Dollar buys (May 3)	€0.8696
British pound (May 3)	\$1.34
Japanese yen (May 3)	109.60
South Korean won (May 3)	1,133.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3767
British pound	\$1.3028
Canada (Dollar)	1.3465
China (Yuan)	6.7347
Denmark (Krone)	6.7744
Egypt (Pound)	17.0703
Euro	\$1.1500/0.8940
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8447
Hungary (Forint)	289.69
Israel (Shekel)	3.5987
Japan (Yen)	111.52
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3041
Norway (Krone)	8.7452
Philippines (Peso)	51.81
Poland (Zloty)	3.83
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7499
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3624
South Korea (Won)	1,165.24
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0186
Thailand (Baht)	32.05
Turkey (Lira)	5.9689

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.44
3-month bill	2.37
30-year bond	2.92

## UK climate panel sets big goals: less meat, drive electric

By DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON — The U.K. should effectively eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 by rapidly adopting policies that will change everything from the way people heat their homes to what they eat, an independent committee that advises the British government on climate change recommended Thursday.

A report from the Committee

on Climate Change said the government must adopt ambitious goals if it wants to be a leader in the fight against global warming and limit the impact of climate change.

While Britain has laid the groundwork to achieve net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases, existing plans "must be urgently strengthened" because "current policy is not enough even for existing targets," the committee

said.

The panel says the government should reduce the demand for energy overall, increase the electrification of the British economy, develop hydrogen fuel technology and set ambitious targets for carbon capture and storage.

It also calls for reduced consumption of meat and dairy products, changes in how farmers operate and a requirement for electric vehicles to be the only op-

tion by 2035.

"We can all see that the climate is changing and it needs a serious response," committee chairman John Gummer said. "The government should accept the recommendations and set about making the changes needed to deliver them without delay."

Environmental groups welcomed the findings, but the proposals could be seen as daunting to some businesses and the government.

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.153	\$3.536	\$3.789	\$3.435
Change in price	+4.6cents	+4.9 cents	+4.9 cents	+2.2 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.057	\$4.264	\$4.103
Change in price	--	+0.9 cents	+0.3 cents	+0.8 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.470	\$3.723	\$3.369
Change in price	--	+4.9 cents	+4.9 cents	+2.2 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.710	--
Change in price	--	--	+4.9 cents	--
Belgium	--	\$3.279	\$3.570	\$3.352
Change in price	--	+27.5 cents	+30.4 cents	+1.0 cents
Turkey	--	--	\$3.606	\$3.252*
Change in price	--	--	+4.9 cents	+2.2 cents

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.569	--	\$3.219
Change in price	--	+5.0 cents	--	+2.0 cents
Okunawa	--	\$2.939	--	\$3.219
Change in price	--	+1.0 cents	--	+2.0 cents
South Korea	--	\$2.969	--	\$3.609
Change in price	--	+4.0 cents	--	+3.0 cents
Guam	--	\$2.959**	\$3.339	\$3.599
Change in price	--	+5.0 cents	+5.0 cents	+5.0 cents

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of May 3-9

## MARKET WATCH

May 1, 2019

Dow Jones	-162.77
Industrials	26,430.14
Nasdaq composite	-45.75
	8,049.64
Standard & Poor's 500	-22.10
	2,923.73
Russell 2000	-14.83
	1,576.38

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# WEEKEND



Lizzo, Pink make  
pop for adults  
Music, Page 36

## ZOMBIES AND THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE

Days Gone is yet another title pitting  
pandemic survivors against flesh-eating  
hordes, but it's still a lot of fun

PAGE 26

## WEEKEND: GADGETS

## REVIEW



The Astro C40 TR has plenty of customization options and high-quality parts.

ASTRO GAMING/TNS

# Play like a pro

## Astro C40 controller for PlayStation 4 is nearly perfect

BY GIESON CACHO  
The Mercury News

**M**icrosoft didn't invent the pro-style controller, but the company did popularize it. The success of its Xbox Elite gamepad showed that demand was strong for a premium controller, one that had more customization options and features.

Sony is taking a different tack. Instead of creating its own pro-style devices, it is letting other companies create their own pro-style devices. One of those companies is Astro Gaming with its C40 TR controller. Mostly known for its headsets, Astro has an overlooked history tied to controllers. It had a hand in the creation of the Xbox 360 controller, a device that has become a standard in the industry.

With the C40, Astro refines ideas taken from the Xbox Elite and Scuf Gaming controllers and expands the customization options, solving durability problems that gamers face. It's a well-designed device that's worth its \$199 price tag, though it has a little room for improvement.

### Granite-type build quality

One of the first traits players should notice about the C40 is the left. Some might feel it's too bulky, but the dimensions of the analog sticks' face buttons are the same as the DualShock 4. That means those who game on stock controllers should feel at home on the C40.

The triggers are wider than normal and feel something akin to the Shield or Ouya controller. Meanwhile, the face buttons can feel stiff initially, but they have sturdiness that matches the controller. It feels as though the C40 can take a beating and keep going.

### Smart (and problematic) design

Because the design is focused on a narrower band of games, Astro was able to tweak other aspects of the controller. For one, the massive LED that's normally on the stock controller is gone. On the C40, it's presented as a simple line on the slimmed-down version of the touchpad. It's thus less likely to get in the way as players move their thumbs from the right analog stick to the face buttons.

Astro added a plug on the top of the controller. That's a must-have for those who demand the low latency of a wired connection, but the company smartly recessed the input so the controller is resistant to being accidentally pulled out.

For those who want a wireless connection, they'll have to connect it to the PlayStation 4 via a dongle that can be found in the carrying case. The big caveat is that players have to switch the controller from wired to wireless mode to activate it. Players have to switch the wireless off when they're done; otherwise it stays on and drains the battery. An automatic shutoff would have been nice.

### Next-level features

Like the Xbox Elite and Scuf controllers, the C40 has back paddles dubbed the UR and UL buttons. These extra interfaces can be mapped to any button on the controller including the L3 and R3 buttons. That can be done via the Astro C40 app for the PC, or it can be done by holding down a tiny button on the back of the controller.

Those extra buttons are useful in shooters when players want to keep their thumb on the right stick. Mapping the jump and reload buttons ensures that they can jump, turn and fire or reload while looking and sprinting. In games where the L3 and R3 button are used, it can offer easy access to a melee or a sprint.

In addition, the C40 has trigger locks that shorten the activation when pulling the trigger. It's helpful in shooters, but it can be a hindrance in other projects such as racing games that need the full pull of the trigger for finer control.

### Big innovation

What makes the C40 special is its modular design. Users can remove the screws with the accompanying hex screwdriver and move around the directional pad and two analog sticks. If they want to keep the traditional PlayStation layout, they can. If they want the offset Xbox One design, they can flip the D-pad and left analog stick.

What's even better is that if one of the analog sticks breaks down, players don't have to buy a brand new controller. They can just pick up a replacement part for a more affordable price and swap it in. It's a brilliant move that can save players money in the long run.

### Easy-to-use software

The last piece of the C40 puzzle is the software. By connecting to a Mac or PC, players can alter the sensitivity of the analog sticks or the triggers. They can dim or cut the LED while also adjusting the power of the force feedback on the left and right side to save on battery life.

All of this adds up to a nearly perfect controller.

## GADGET WATCH

# Making the switch to USB-C connectors

By GREGG ELLMAN  
Tribune News Service

**U**SB-C, a 24-pin USB connector system, has been out for a few years, but many know little or anything about it. My advice is, if you can switch to it, do so. If for no other reason, the plug is easier to use than other versions of USB, Thunderbolt, etc.

Computers, smartphones and tablets are switching, and I even managed to switch my wife to a new MacBook Pro with USB-C. Along with the connector, the speeds are equal, or much often better, than existing USB 3.0 speeds.

Accessories for the USB-C are much easier to find than they were just a year or two ago. The latest I tried from iOGear was the USB-C Docking Station with power delivery 3.0 (\$179.95) and the Thunderbolt 3 six-slot card reader. Both expand your workstation at home, office or while traveling.

Assuming you have compatible accessories, they are essentially plug-and-play and will simplify your cords, cable connections and desktop clutter instantly.

With the USB-C accessories, a single USB-C plug connects to your computer and now gives you a variety of ports and options to dock up to 10 devices.

With the USB-C Docking Station with power delivery 3.0, you have an expansion dock, giving you a USB-C port with a100W pass-through to charge laptops and 3x USB-A 3.0 ports. Another USB-C port is there for data.

There's an ethernet port, 3.5 mm audio input, SD/MicroSD memory card reader/writer, video options to support HDMI (4K), Mini DisplayPort (4K) or VGA (1080p), and dual video outputs via mini DisplayPort for up to 1080p @ 60Hz.

The bottom of the 13.78-by-2.96-0.39-inch desktop accessory has a silicon rubber pad so it stays in place and keeps the surface scratch-free.

The 8-in-1 USB-C Pocket Dock with power delivery 3.0 (\$99.95) is a portable and pocket-sized version with many of the same features, but not all. It also has the 100W USB-C pass-through for laptop charging, connects a

VGA or HDMI display, SD/MicroSD card reader, Ethernet and USB-A ports.

It's built with a rugged aluminum housing and has a detachable USB-C cable with hideaway storage included.

Check the iOGear site for system requirements and compatibility.

Online: iogear.com

One of my favorite companies in the tech world always has been Garmin for portable GPS units (it also has an amazing App, which I use often).

Garmin's visually pleasing DriveSmart 65 & Traffic is amazing. It's built with a 6.95-inch diagonal edge-to-edge display and very responsive multi-touch screen with a 1024-by-600-pixel resolution.

Right out of the box it's fully loaded to help you drive anywhere with preloaded street maps. It can be used with real-time directions for your destination, giving points of interest, landmarks and even showing where you can get your next meal. The software has TripAdvisor ratings and Foursquare points of interest. Garmin traffic will even suggest alternate routes when needed.

What I liked best is the voice-activated navigation. Just like voice assistants you may have heard of (Siri, etc.), speak your commands of where you want to go, and the Garmin maps it out. You'll quickly get used to saying "OK, Garmin."

You can also set your locations up (while you're not driving, of course) and then have the voice-activated navigation get you there. Bluetooth calling works with compatible smartphones. Driver alerts for school zones, tight turns and speed warnings are always helpful.

With the accompanying Garmin app, smart notifications can be set up. With built-in Wi-Fi, updates can be loaded into the GPS with ease.

A Vehicle suction cup mount, traffic receiver/vehicle power cable and a USB cable along with instructions are included. The DriveSmart 65 will work with the Garmin BC 30 wireless backup camera (sold separately).

Online: garmin.com/en-US



iOGear/TNS

The USB-C Docking Station with power delivery 3.0 provides an expansion dock with multiple useful ports.

ON THE COVER: Players eke out survival amid a zombie apocalypse in Days Gone.

Sony Interactive Entertainment



## WEEKEND

# CHECK IT OUT

## Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

# 1

### 'Long Shot' is that, but enjoyable anyway

If you're in the mood to raise objections, you'll find plenty of opportunities in "Long Shot." Starring Charlize Theron as an elegant presidential candidate who begins sleeping with her slovenly speechwriter (Seth Rogen), the film is filled with imbalances and double standards. Is it cool that Hollywood has once again paired an average-looking male with a classically beautiful female? Or that the film has no qualms about a boss sleeping with an underling? If the gender roles were reversed, would this film have gotten made?

The answer on all counts is no, but "Long Shot" manages to succeed anyway. It's a charming little movie with two endearing leads and just the right mix of raunchy humor and tenderness, somewhere between classic screwball and '90s-era romance. And if you've already seen last weekend's "Avengers: Endgame," "Long Shot" is by far the best of this weekend's new movie releases.

— Rafer Guzman/Newsday

• More 'Long Shot' stories on Pages 24-25.



Seth Rogen and Charlize Theron are an unlikely pair in "Long Shot."

LIONSGATE/AP

# 2

### Pink and Lizzo's albums offer affirmation

Pop music is not a very happy place these days. Teens and 20-somethings singing about depression are a dime a dozen. So when veteran 30-somethings Pink and Lizzo release confident albums about empowerment within a week, it's worth noting. Pink's "Hurts 2B Human" and "Cuz I Love You" from Lizzo will likely make listeners feel better, not worse.

• More music on Pages 36-37.



# 3

### Abdul shows Billboard crowd she's still got it

The Billboard Awards were bursting with exciting performances on Wednesday night, but none was more electrifying than 56-year-old Paula Abdul's. The singer/dancer and notoriously ditzzy celebrity judge looked as spry as she was when she first released her '80s hits, tap dancing, flinging herself into the air to be caught by backup dancers and generally having a high-energy blast to the amazement of onlookers — oh, and in heels, and while singing. We don't think she meant to fling her wide-brimmed hat directly at the much younger Julianne Hough's neck, but ... you'll have to be the judge.

• Watch it at [youtu.be/TsrU\\_BEamL8](https://youtu.be/TsrU_BEamL8).



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

## WEEKEND: MOVIES

# Comedy isn't 'Long Shot' for June Diane Raphael

By RICK BENTLEY  
Tribune News Service

SIPA USA/TNS

**J**une Diane Raphael loves making people laugh, whether through a brilliant spoof of the reality dating genre with the series "Burning Love" or a romantic comedy such as the feature film "Long Shot." It's an added bonus when she can also make people think about a serious issue or the power of romance at the same time.

"I am very passionate about doing comedy. I am absolutely shocked that people will pay me to do it because I would absolutely do it for free," Raphael says. "It was also a thrill for me to have a role that had this scope. The political backdrop, which is something I am interested in also, was really appealing too."

In "Long Shot," she had plenty of opportunity to mix it up on a comedy level, especially with costar Seth Rogen. In the film, Raphael plays Maggie Milikín, the by-the-book chief assistant to rising political star Charlotte Field (Charlize Theron). Just when Field is considering making a run for the presidency, she runs into Fred Flarsky (Rogen), a talented and free-spirited journalist in search of a job.

Field was Flarsky's babysitter years ago, and he still has a major crush on her.

Field decides to hire Flarsky as her new speechwriter because he seems to have an understanding of who she is and will be an asset in helping get the message out to the public. The hiring doesn't thrill Milikín and sets off a few office showdowns between the two, especially one big incident with a wardrobe selection.

The working relationship between the actors was the opposite, as Raphael was excited to get to work with Rogen again. In the few times they have worked together, Raphael fell in love with the way Rogen attacks comedy so as to make sure a joke is as good as it possibly can be.

A lot of the humor in the screenplay by Liz Hannah ("The Post") and Dan Sterling ("The Office") comes out of the political arena. Raphael's approach to acting is to concentrate more on bringing life to her character, but she realizes we are living in a time with comedy where there is more care about what is being said to generate a laugh.

"Being careful about the impact of our words and our comedy and our jokes — even with the best intentions behind them — is a good thing. That's only positive. Along with that, as a performer, one has to feel free and have to feel free to fail and say the wrong thing," Raphael says. "You have to be uncensored and work from that place. That's an interesting dynamic. But, telling stories that are representative of more people is only a good thing for comedy."

The perspective comes out of almost two decades of being funny in television and film for the New York native. Her credits include "Year One," "Funny or Die Presents," "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," "Unfinished Business," "New Girl," "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues," "Grace and Frankie" and "Veep."

Raphael's road to comedy started in New York, where she studied acting at Tisch School of the Arts and the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. Following graduation, Raphael studied improvisational comedy at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater. That's where she and Casey Wilson ("The Hotwives of Las Vegas") would eventually run a two-woman sketch show.

Her long list of credits also includes multiple projects as a writer from the feature films "Ass Backwards" and "Bride Wars" to episodes of "The Very Funny Show."

Raphael was convinced from the start that the script for "Long Shot" was strong, but she knew that because Rogen likes to push to get the maximum out of a joke, there would be times she would be able to give input. She felt plenty of freedom to improvise, which she points out is really just "writing on your feet."

Being part of "Long Shot" gave Raphael a chance to be part of a production that, while going for laughs, also features a sweet, romantic tale.

"Romance is a funny thing because we all love seeing two people find it,"

Raphael says. "I think the heart of romantic comedies is very hopeful and a very hopeful genre. There's something sincere about it."

Seth Rogen and June Diane Raphael are two of the stars of "Long Shot."

Lionsgate



## WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

# Theron, Rogen a winning pair in 'Long Shot'

By KATIE WALSH  
Tribune News Service

**T**he rom-com has officially been revived, and with new releases hitting theaters and flooding Netflix, the best ones always seem to turn out to be a twist on the genre. "Long Shot," starring Charlize Theron and Seth Rogen, puts the rom into the com of Machiavellian Washington, D.C., political machinations. It's "Veep," but less absurdly acid-tongued, and a lot more swoony. Still, the incisive cultural and political commentary cuts deep, and Theron and Rogen turn out to be a winning pair.

Written by Dan Sterling and Liz Hannah, the film follows journalist Fred Flarsky (Rogen), who reconnects with his middle school babysitter, Charlotte Field (Theron), who has become the youngest secretary of state ever — and an eligible, workaholic bachelorette. She taps the newly unemployed Fred to punch up

her speeches as she embarks on a worldwide tour touting a new environmental initiative and embellishing her public image for a future presidential run. The unlikelyst of flings blossoms along the way.

There is of course, pop nostalgia, and a whole lot of drug humor, because, well, Seth Rogen, but it's a treat to see him back as the unlikely romantic lead, and to see the softer side of Theron, even as she remains in a powerful role. Sterling and Hannah put this particular gender dynamic — with a powerful female politician and a male "Marilyn" (as Fred dubs himself) — to work, upending regressive beliefs about politicians and sex. Why should sex be shameful? Politicians are people, too. The film also carefully threads the needle on the ways in which Charlotte's gender informs her work (and her compromises), and unpacks the sexist beliefs that permeate society and systems of power. It's



LIONSGATE/AP

**A powerful female politician (Charlize Theron) falls for her speechwriter (Seth Rogen) in "Long Shot."**

also refreshing that "Long Shot" places muted special interests and biased media conglomerates squarely in its sights, and it does not hold back.

What makes "Long Shot" work is the writing, which takes place in a heightened, almost fantastical reality, but always feels character-driven and grounded. This onscreen relationship is #goals, not because of grand gestures (though there are those) or steamy sex scenes (those are more funny than anything else),

but because it's clear the two characters know and like each other so well just as people.

There are a few incredible supporting turns by Ravi Patel as Charlotte's bag man Tom, O'Shea Jackson Jr. as Fred's bestie Lance and a deliciously witchy turn from June Diane Raphael as Charlotte's aide Maggie, delivering lines and reactions so icily it makes one lament that she didn't have a meatier role on "Veep."

But, speaking of TV, director Jonathan Levine for some reason

has chosen an aesthetic for the film that can only be described as "a very beige episode of some forgettable prestige drama." "Long Shot" is dim, dark and visually bland. Would it have killed cinematographer Yves Belanger to switch on a light or two? It just seems a shame, because this delightful comedy deserves a brighter style to match its undeniable romantic fireworks.

"Long Shot" is rated R for sexual content, language throughout and some drug use. Running time: 125 minutes.

## 'UglyDolls': Kooky toys caught in movie cliches

By KATIE WALSH  
Chicago Tribune

**H**ollywood loves a merchandising opportunity. And in recent years, there's been a trend of turning merchandise itself into movies, which can then spawn more opportunities for merchandising, therefore creating an infinite loop of merchandising opportunities. The latest children's toys sent into the movie-transformation merch machine are the colorful, blubby plushies known as Uglydolls, whose adventures feature in the new animated film "UglyDolls." But for a film about outlandishly kooky dolls, the film sure is flat, listless and narratively bland.

Directed by animation vet Kelly Asbury, the film has the "story by" credited to producer Robert Rodriguez, who, along with writers Alison Peck, Erica Rivinoja and Vivian Wang, cherry-picked every narrative trope from every animated movie ever. As soon as the film opens with a song by a cheerful hero describing their happy, utopian community and wondering about the big world out there, you know you're in for an utterly predictable ride. Unsurprisingly, said hero ends up on an unlikely adventure with a gaggle of quirky pals, overcomes obstacles, digs deep and learns to love themselves just as they are. If this sounds like "Moana," "Smallfoot" or any number of other animated films aimed at kids, you'd be correct, and "UglyDolls" does



STX Entertainment

**"UglyDolls" is an animated adventure about misfit toys.**

not stray from the formula.

Kelly Clarkson voices the plucky heroine Moxy, while Janelle Monae lends her vocal talents to Moxy's ally Mandy. Nick Jonas and Blake Shelton offer up voices and songs as rivals Lou and OX, respectively, the leaders of their communities of Perfection and Uglyville. Pitbull makes his debut voicing the slick rapper, one-eyed Ugly Dog.

Moxy yearns to break free of Uglyville to find the Big World and most importantly, a child to love and cherish. She and a group of ugly pals make their way through a long pipe (which they traveled through as rejects from the assembly line) and find themselves in the land of Perfection, literally, where dolls are put through a rigorous training program and subjected to scrupulous scrutiny by blond-coiffed

crooner Lou, who is essentially an '80s villain.

Along the way, Moxy is broken down (by Lou) and lifted back up (by Mandy) and learns to embrace herself, fearlessly demonstrate to others how to love themselves and understand that their "flaws" make them special.

For a film about colorful weird dolls, one hopes for something wackier, funnier, edgier. But "UglyDolls" is so soft and tame that it feels like watching those PBS cartoons aimed at toddlers, and that must be the film's intended audience. For anyone over 5, it's best as mild, unoffensive background noise, but nothing more thrilling or satisfying than that.

"UglyDolls" is rated PG for thematic elements and brief action. Running time: 88 minutes.

## ALSO PLAYING



SONY PICTURES/AP

## 'The Intruder'

When a young married couple (Michael Ealy, Meagan Good, not pictured) buys their dream house in Napa Valley, they think they have found the perfect home to take their next steps as a family. But when the strangely attached seller (Dennis Quaid) continues to infiltrate their lives, they begin to suspect that he has hidden motivations beyond a quick sale in "The Intruder." A review of the psychological thriller was not available at press time. The film is rated PG-13 for violence, terror, some sexuality, language and thematic elements. Running time: 102 minutes.



## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



**Days Gone takes place after a global pandemic has killed almost everyone, but transformed millions of others into what survivors call “freakers” — mindless, feral creatures, more animal than human but very much alive and quickly evolving.**

Photos courtesy of Sony Interactive Entertainment

BY CHRISTOPHER BYRD  
Special to The Washington Post

**I**s there any energy left in the idea of the zombie apocalypse? How many times can the end of the world come down to pockets of bedraggled survivors versus swarms of flesh-eating monstrosities?

As someone who long ago stopped watching “The Walking Dead,” and generally has little interest in zombie-related fare (excepting The Last of Us), I wasn’t keyed up to play Days Gone. I never expected it to wring any fresh ideas from one of the most strip-mined veins of contemporary pop culture. The few dozen hours I’ve spent with it haven’t given me a reason to amend that assessment, but I’ve been surprised at how easy the game has been to fall into. Its core gameplay loops are pleasing enough that it’s been a snap for me to set aside my lack of interest in the game’s setup and simply enjoy going through the motions of eking out survival in another picturesque wasteland.

Set in Oregon, Days Gone follows the wanderings of Deacon St. John, an emotionally guarded biker who, at the beginning of the story, is still grieving for Sarah, the wife he lost at the onset of a pandemic that transformed most of the human

population into zombies or what the folks in the game call “freakers.” (As the developers have taken pains to point out, freakers are not undead like the classic zombies from George A. Romero’s films.) Together with his best friend Boozer, Deacon prowls the roads running odd jobs for a small number of independent camps, each of which operates according to its own ethos.

Of the camps that Deacon works for, one tries its best to remain aloof from outside squabbles, another is known for its slave-labor working conditions, and the other for its truther ideology that holds the federal government responsible for the world-altering calamity. Though Deacon would prefer to keep each of the camps at arm’s length, various circumstances draw him closer into their orbits.

The people that Deacon interacts with share a deep sense of trauma. Wandering through the camps, you will hear hushed stories of what people have done to survive.

The character models in Days Gone are detailed enough to convey nonverbal cues. At one point, Deacon and a man named Schizo come across the remains of a person who spent his last days trapped in a mineshaft eating the remains of his friend. When Schizo asks Deacon if he’s ever had to result to cannibalism, Deacon says

that’s one line he hasn’t had to cross. Though Schizo affirms the same, his equivocal look clearly arouses Deacon’s skepticism. Everyone, including Deacon, has ample reason to lie in the game’s Hobbesian world.

In addition to the camps that Deacon works for, there is another one shunned by all with good sense. The Rippers are a cultlike group that esteem the zombies and are given to wielding blowtorches on themselves and others. After a run-in with the Rippers leaves Deacon’s best friend seriously injured, his thoughts turn to exacting revenge. When he isn’t scrapping, Deacon preoccupies himself with assisting a man he happens upon who works for a shadowy government organization. Deacon tries his best to tamp down any burgeoning sense of hope, but still helps the man spy on his colleagues in return for information about Sarah’s fate.

Days Gone is easy on the eyes. The dynamic weather and lighting systems nicely accent the game’s tree-dappled environments. To effectively traverse the landscape, it’s necessary to keep Deacon’s motorcycle well fueled and in good shape. Gasoline can be acquired at camps and abandoned gas stations while bike repairs can be made using scrap materials from abandoned cars.

I found that the practice of maintaining the bike grounded me to the world in ways I hadn’t expected. Though I wasn’t above using the fast travel option when I could, I enjoyed striking out to new places — driving up switchbacks and past sparkly bodies of water, keeping an eye out for scrap. The game efficiently generates a flow state.

Deacon can make use of melee, firearm and explosive weapons as well as traps. It’s possible to stumble across different groups of enemies, sometimes fighting each other, which can lead to some fun combat scenarios. Once, on motorcycle, I was chasing another biker when I ran out of ammo. So, I swerved into his bike and sent him spilling across the road just as an infected wolf jumped toward me and I turned in such a way that he arced over the bike. Moments like that reminded me a bit of the madcap energy of the Far Cry series.

Days Gone provides an entertaining experience that tries harder to make you feel than it does to make you think. The characters and their inner conflicts might not stay with you, but the act of seeing them through their adventures could keep you happily engaged for quite a while.

Platform: PlayStation 4

Online: bendstudio.com/games/days-gone



More game reviews at [strips.com/games](https://www.strips.com/games)

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe



Gelateria is an ice cream shop and coffee bar at the shopping center.



Child care is available at the shopping center for a small fee.

# Shop around

Browse local Italian stores, American favorites at Cone Shopping Center near Aviano Air Base

By NORMAN LLAMAS  
Stars and Stripes

It's no mystery that Americans love to shop. Fortunately for those assigned to Aviano Air Base, the area has tons of retail options.

The Cone Shopping Center, located off route SS13 in the town of Conegliano, Italy, is a medium-sized mall. The shopping center is only a 45-minute drive from Aviano Base.

This shopping center is typically quiet and features stores like H&M and Foot Locker. It also offers standalone retail

shops like Trony, a family clothing store; Maisons Du Monde, a home furnishings store; and Cialfa Sport, a sporting goods store, located near the main mall building.

Other stores include Ipercoop, a large supermarket; Scarpe and Scarpe, a well-known Italian shoe store; and Conbipel, which sells clothing and accessories for men, women and children.

The mall also offers an affordably priced child care center where parents can drop off their children while they shop.

The mall hosts many family-oriented events throughout the

year such as a haunted house for Halloween, a Christmas Village during the holiday season, and children's shows like Power Rangers and My Little Pony.

The mall also rents out exhibition space inside the gallery.

If you're feeling hungry after you shop, there are many eateries and coffee shops located on the second floor of the mall.

Food options range from baked goods and coffee to sit-down restaurants. There's a pizza shop, a cafeteria-style restaurant, a sandwich shop and an ice cream parlor.

llamas.norman@stripes.com



Zucchi Home is a household goods store at the shopping center.

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Address: Via S. Giuseppe, 25,  
31015 Conegliano TV, Italy

### TIMES

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to  
9 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 8:30  
p.m. Closed on Thursdays and  
all local holidays.

### COSTS

Options range from budget-friendly stores to high-end designer stores.

### FOOD

There are many restaurants. There's also a supermarket on the main floor.

### INFORMATION

Phone: +39 0438 418888

— Norman Llamas

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

## Seaside sisters on the French/Spanish border

Along the western Mediterranean coast, two easygoing — and easy-to-enjoy — beach towns stand like sister cities on each side of the Franco-Spanish border. Both Collioure, in France, and Cadaques, in Spain, are off the grid when it comes to glitzy resorts. And each has a delightful ambience — with welcoming beaches, quaint back streets and scenery that inspired many notable 20th-century artists.

Collioure is where I like to unwind and regroup. When I'm here, I enjoy a slow stroll on la Med, lose myself in the old town's streets, compare the gelato shops on Rue Vauban, relax on a pebble-sand beach and take a hike. The hills above Collioure deliver fantastic views of its bay and the sun-bleached, terra-cotta-roofed village below. Most of Collioure's shopping, sights and hotels cluster in the old town — an area that's most romantic in the evening, when yellow lamps reflect warm pastels and deep blues. By Mediterranean standards, this seaside village should be slammed with tourists — it has everything. But, outside of peak times, it is remarkably quiet.

Collioure is blessed with a privileged climate and an enviable setting. For more than 2,500 years, empires have battled to control its position on the Mediterranean at the foot of the Pyrenees. The mountains rising behind Collioure provided a natural defense, and its sheltered port gave it a commanding edge. The town is a pastel treat with six petite and pebbly beaches, leafy squares under a once-mighty castle and a lighthouse to mark where the Pyrenees meet the sea. It's no wonder that artists such as Henri Matisse, Andre Derain, Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Raoul Dufy and Marc Chagall all painted here at one time or another.

Just 15 miles from the border, Collioure shares a common history and independent attitude with its rebellious siblings across the border in the Spanish province of Catalunya. Undeniably French, yet with a proud strain of Catalan culture, it flies the yellow and red flag of Catalunya, displays street names in French and Catalan and sports a few business names with el and es, rather than le and les. Less than a century ago, most locals here spoke Catalan; today, that language is enjoying a resurgence as Collioure rediscovered its roots.



Rick Steves

About an hour and a half drive away, Cadaques is a seaside gem at the easternmost tip of Spain. With whitewashed buildings, a gentle ocean breeze and dreamy bay views, Cadaques is idyllic and remote. It has no train service and only a tiny access road that dead-ends. If you want a peaceful beach escape near Barcelona, this is it.

Since the late 1800s, Cadaques has served as a haven for intellectuals and artists. The fishing village's craggy coastline, sun-drenched coasts and laid-back lifestyle inspired Fauvists such as Matisse and Surrealists like Rene Magritte, Marcel Duchamp and Federico Garcia Lorca. Even Picasso painted some of his Cubist works here.

Most travelers in Cadaques are here to see the home of Surrealist artist Salvador Dali. I consider it the most interesting home of a deceased personality in all of Europe. It's very popular and allows only eight visitors at a time for escorted



Cameron Hewitt

**Left: Collioure's sand-and-pebble beach ends at the Notre-Dame des Anges church — a view that's inspired many modern artists.**

**Right: Spain's sunny port town of Cadaques is an idyllic alternative to the glitzy Mediterranean resorts nearby.**



Rick Steves

tours, so you must get reservations online in advance.) Dali was raised in nearby Figueras and brought international fame to this sleepy Catalan port in the 1920s. As a kid, Dali spent summers here in the family cabin, where he was fascinated by the rocky landscape that would later be the backdrop for many Surrealist paintings. He and his wife (and muse) Gala converted a fisherman's home — about a 20-min walk from the city center — into their semipermanent residence. It was here that Dali did his best work.

Beyond the Dali House, Cadaques offers little in the way of sights, but the old town is remarkably characteristic. I like to stroll along the water from the Dali statue on the beach and admire the "elephant trees" imported from Cuba (many Catalans temporarily relocated to Cuba when

it was under Spanish rule in the 19th century). Uphill, the Jewish Quarter is still rich with vestiges of the strong Jewish community that thrived in Spain until 1492. That's when Christian fanaticism led to the expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Catholic Spain. At the top of town, the Church of Santa Maria offers commanding views of Cadaques. Inside, an opulent Baroque altar features 365 carved figures covered in gold.

In spite of its fame, Cadaques is mellow and feels off the beaten path, much like its French counterpart, Collioure. In both, time seems to move a little slower, and that's what makes them so enjoyable.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

## Liberation Festival in Pilsen

The Czech city of Pilsen looks back upon the liberation of Czechoslovakia by allied troops in May of 1945 with a profound sense of gratitude, expressed in the form of an annual festival.

Organizers of this year's edition running May 3-6 hope that the public's keen interest in this year's 75th anniversary of the Normandy landings will result in an uptick in visitors.

Things to see and do in Pilsen include an open-air military ball and a concert performed by the Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra on May 3, the Convoy of Liberty parade of historical vehicles at 11 a.m. on May 5, and the "Thank you, America" commemorative ceremony at 4 p.m. on May 6.

American veterans from the 2nd Infantry Division, the 16th Armored Division, and the 97th Infantry Division will be in attendance alongside their Belgian counterparts. A chance to hear a concert is offered from 7 a.m. May 4 at the Mestanska beseda.

From May 3-5, historical military camps of the 16th Armored Division, the Czechoslovak Independent Armored Brigade and The Royal Air Force will be set up behind the shopping center; on all days, a military camp of the 2nd Infantry Division depicts



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: [strips.com/blogs/europe-traveler](https://www.strips.com/blogs/europe-traveler)

war-era camp life of American soldiers and the day-to-day life of the town's citizens. An open-air exhibition commemorates the role of the Czechoslovak Independent Armored Brigade in the opening of the second front in Normandy and the siege of Dunkirk. Concerts, folklore performances and displays of modern military equipment bring additional diversion to the mix. Online: slavnostivobody.cz/en

## Discover Belgian beer in Mons

Mons, Belgium, ushers in the best months of the year with one of the country's best assets: beer. Biere on Fete offers the chance to sample more than 80 beers hailing from the 23 Belgian

breweries invited to take part in the 22nd edition of this festival. Participating breweries include major brands known well beyond the country's borders such as Chimay, Orval and Kwak, alongside lower-profile makers. Blondes, browns, ambers and other types are all well represented here. Free concerts give the non-drinkers a good reason to turn out for some fun, too.

Biere on Fete runs May 3-5 on the Grand Place. Entry is free. Online: tinyurl.com/y580vu4b

## Nuremberg's Blue Night

Nuremberg's big night of art and culture sweeps through town in a moody shade of blue. On May 4, the city once again celebrates its annual Blaue Nacht, in which projections, installations and exhibitions give the Old Town a temporary new look. The theme of this year's edition, "Heaven and Hell," can be interpreted as a reference to actual or perceived opposites.

Don't-miss nights include a projection titled "Heavenly Journey" projected on the castle walls and a video projection "Kontra," shown on the facade of the New City Hall. Other fun things to do might include watching excerpts of ballet performances at the Opernhaus, deciding to trade played through headphones at the silent disco on Kornmarkt, or taking part in a



COURTESY OF RAUF MOU/blaue nacht.nuernberg.de

**Did someone vandalize Nuremberg's stately Old Town buildings? Don't worry — if it's May 4, it's just Blaue Nacht, the night on which art projections, installations and exhibitions take over.**

light saber school at the DB Museum. For stunning vistas over the lit-up town, three towers can be visited on the night, including those of St. Lawrence and St. Sebaldus Churches; an additional six-euro entrance fee is charged to ascend.

To help visitors navigate, the Old Town is divided into east, north and south zones. Information pillars show the way from one landmark to the next. Caterers are on hand to provide numerous quality food options. Blaue Nacht runs from 7 p.m. through midnight, with some venues remaining open past

that. Tickets purchased on event night for €18 for 18 euros; these are also valid for use of the local VGN public transportation network. Children ages 15 and under can participate for free but they need tickets to use public transportation. Sales points are located at the VAG-Mobil stand at the main train station and at several other kiosks scattered about town. The purchase of a "Blinky" twinkling magnetic pin is optional, but proceeds go toward the organization of the next edition of Blaue Nacht. Online: blaue nacht.nuernberg.de/English



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



PHOTOS BY JOHN VANDIVER/Stars and Stripes

L'Osteria is a new restaurant on a prime corner of Stuttgart's Europaviertel section, a redeveloped quarter that includes the city library and a large shopping mall.

## After Hours: Germany

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

The pizzas are too big for the plates at L'Osteria, an Italian restaurant chain in Europe that opened a new branch recently in Stuttgart's newish Europaviertel section.

The restaurant was bustling on a recent week-evening and we managed to get a table in the corner. I had been looking forward to the visit ever since L'Osteria replaced some sort of Asian fusion joint that never seemed to catch on, despite occupying a prime piece of foot-trafficked real estate.

Situated next to the city library, the popular Milano shopping mall and a mix of upscale condos, a trendy pizzeria was the missing niche here. And as I read L'Osteria's menu, I was pleased with the variety, the bevy of toppings to choose from and the reasonable prices. The atmosphere was lively, with Italian pop music blasting and an exuberant mix of young and old clientele. The kitchen was large and open — the pizza chefs were flying around the big wood stove, slinging in the pies.

I ordered an uncluttered pizza with spicy salami. After all, the worth of a pizza is determined by the quality of its bread, sauce and cheese. It should not be a dumping ground for the unrestrained delivery of distracting toppings.

But as we waited for our orders, I saw cause for concern. I watched as pies got served to the surrounding tables. They were too big for the very big tables they were served on. The crust hung off the edges. Perhaps it was intended as a grand gesture of abundance. But L'Osteria's signature pizza statement looked cumbersome and annoying.

At a neighboring table of four, the four large pizzas couldn't even fit on the table without a complicated realignment of drinks. Luckily, we were just three and one pizza was off the kids' menu, so it all fit. And it all tasted very good. I consumed every bit despite my irritation with the pizza's contours.

Geometric challenges aside, L'Osteria is a worthy choice. And there are options other than pizza, which comes in just one massive size. Pasta dishes abound as well as salads and antipasti offerings.

Still, while enjoyable, L'Osteria seems best as a place to eat when you are in the neighborhood on other business rather than destination dining.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver



L'Osteria's pizzas are bigger than the plates. The eatery also offers a wide variety of pasta dishes.

## L'OSTERIA

Location: 7 Mailaender Platz, Stuttgart

Hours: 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. daily.

Dress: Casual

Prices: Moderate. Pizzas range between \$12

and \$15

Information: www.losteria.net

Phone: (49) (0)711 22007707

— John Vandiver

## Well-prepared pineapple pizza comes as a surprise

By TIM CARMAN  
The Washington Post

Many foods have taken their lumps over the years. Avocado toast, cake pops and kale Caesar salads come to mind. But nothing has sustained the hate like Hawaiian pizza, the most recognizable pie that features chunks of pineapple. According to recent data from YouGov Omnibus, nearly a quarter of Americans say pineapple is one of their least favorite pizza toppings. The pizza delivery app Slice conducted a survey in 2017, and 54 percent of the respondents said pineapple had no place on a pizza.

Celebrities, politicians, chefs and even minimum-wage pizzamakers count themselves as members of this pineapple hate group. Gordon Ramsay, a chef never at a loss for words, once opined, "You don't put (expletive) pineapple on pizza." The president of Iceland said he would outlaw pineapple on pizza if he could, a statement that made him an instant hero in some circles.

A couple of years ago, a University of Arizona undergraduate tried to add pineapple to her barbecue chicken pizza, but the pie arrived sans fruit, with a note from the campus restaurant: "Couldn't bring myself to put pineapple on it. Thats gross. Sorry." A \$5 bill was taped to the pizza box.

It's hard to pinpoint exactly what's behind the animosity toward pineapple on pizza. Pineapple itself was No. 10 on a list of the most-popular fruits purchased in America last year, behind bananas and oranges but ahead of pears, cherries and avocado (!). It probably goes without saying that none of the top 20 fruits in America is a common pizza topping, though some, such as pears and apples, make an occasional cameo.

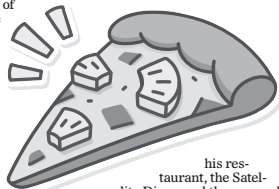
Jonathan Allen, co-owner of Pizza CS in Rockville, Md., told me that he ate Hawaiian pizza as an underdiscriminating kid but now frowns on pineapple on any kind of pie, especially on the Neapolitan rounds served at his restaurant. He doesn't like the texture. A sign over the counter at Pizza CS reinforces Allen's stance: "No slices. No pineapple. No ranch."

In a story last year for the Wall Street Journal, chef-turned-food-writer Arun Gupta noted that the disdain for Hawaiian pizza is just another form of cultural elitism. No surprise, the article noted, Gupta is a fan of Hawaiian pizza.

It's tempting to argue that

Gupta is among a semi-silent majority of Hawaiian pizza fans. There is growing, if flawed, evidence to support this. A Time magazine online poll in 2017 found that nearly 63 percent of respondents favored pineapple on pies. A Change.org petition last year to ban pineapple on pizza drew only seven supporters. There are celebrity endorsements, too: The Rock digs Hawaiian pizza; he says, "pineapple on pizza is MY JAM." For what it's worth, Justin Bieber loves it, too.

The late Sotirios "Sam" Panopoulos was a Greek immigrant widely credited for inventing the Hawaiian pizza in southern Ontario, Canada. According to lore, in 1962, he spread ham and pineapples onto a standard cheese pizza at



his restaurant, the Satellite Diner, and then named the pie for the brand of canned fruit that he used. The Hawaiian pizza was born, followed closely by the controversy it continues to generate.

Panopoulos reportedly died not comprehending why his famous creation was so loathed. I sympathize with him. No one bats an eye over tacos al pastor, that Lebanese-influenced combination of spit-roasted pork and chunks of pineapple, even though Mexican tacos have a tradition every bit as rich as that of Italian pizza.

Recently, I invited a group of friends and Washington Post employees to join me at We the Pizza on Washington's Capitol Hill for a tasting of Hawaiian pizza. I sought a mix of palates: Those who love Hawaiian pizza, those who don't and those, like me, who are basically neutral on the combination.

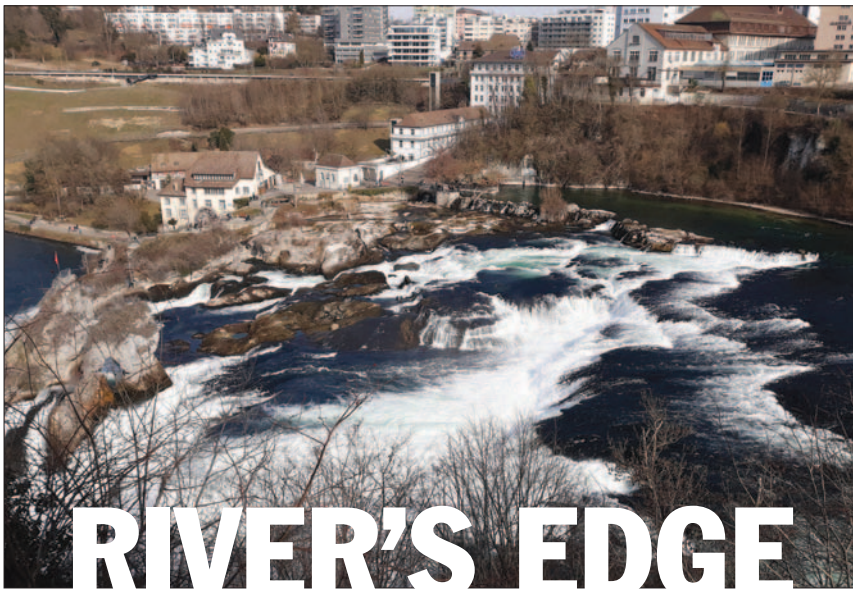
A funny thing happened during our tasting. No one actually hated the Hawaiian at We the Pizza, even the self-described haters.

Tasters pointed out that the approach was the difference: The pineapple was sliced thin and roasted, so that you don't get a major squirt of sweet and acidic juice. The tomato sauce also wasn't sweet, which can contribute to the sickly, saccharine flavor profile of some Hawaiian pies. This pizza, in short, had an almost cosmic balance between salty, sweet and savory elements.

I pointed out the obvious: It's not the combination that some hate — the pineapple and ham on pizza — but the execution of it.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe



PHOTOS BY WALTER NICKLIN  
For The Washington Post

**Left: The Rhine River's waterfall, at 75 feet high and 500 feet wide, is by most measures Europe's largest. The falls are roughly 50 miles upstream from Basel, Switzerland. Above: A typical street scene in the city of Feldkirch, Austria.**

word for "hurry," appropriate for the fast-moving waters.

## Branching out

The next day, I intend to hike the five-mile path along the levees to the Rhine confluence but turn back halfway when I realize the flat terrain and straightened river will bring no surprises. I'd rather explore the winding streets of Feldkirch's old town, with Schattenburg castle towering above the well-preserved and carefully decorated medieval buildings. In more recent history, as Austria's westernmost town, Feldkirch witnessed the farewell address of the last Habsburg emperor as he traveled into exile after World War I.

Only 20 miles farther up the Rhine at the confluence of another tributary, the Tamina, are the thermal springs that gave rise to one of Switzerland's notable spa towns: Bad Ragaz, my next day-trip destination. In what's beginning to feel like an ersatz boat (my VW rental), I float up the broad, river-carved valley with rugged, snow-capped mountain peaks abruptly rising on either side. This landscape is marketed as "Heidiland." I discover in the town tourist office housed in a Beaux-Arts spa house, Johanna Spyri's novel "Heidi" — written "for children and those who love children" and set in the Alpine Rhine valley — remains widely popular around the world, though first published in 1881.

About 30 miles south of Bad Ragaz, the Rhine flows into the Vorderer Rhein and Hinterrhein — translated as the "Anterior" and "Posterior" Rhine. No signs mark the confluence; I spend almost the entire next day wandering across various tributaries until I locate it. Which branch leads to the ultimate source of the Rhine?

I hedge my bets. I'll devote one day to following the Hinterrhein, which is judged lesser in length but larger in volume. Then, the next day, I'll drive along the Vorderer Rhein toward the Tomasee, a small lake at 7,694 feet elevation, which is often cited as the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

# RIVER'S EDGE

## A solo quest to find the source of the mighty Rhine

By WALTER NICKLIN

Special To The Washington Post

**H**ow did it happen that I'm now slicing into what might be the world's biggest schnitzel, to be washed down by a half-liter of local brew, in a medieval castle perched atop a hill overlooking an Austrian border town I've never heard of? The castle, whose tower — the "keep" — was built around 1265, is called Schattenburg, and the town is Feldkirch, built on the banks of a Rhine tributary. And that is the answer to my question: I'm here to explore the Rhine upstream of Basel, Switzerland, which is where typical cruises start and/or end.

It's a solitary quest, indulging my fantasy of being reincarnated as a 19th-century explorer discovering the source of a mighty river. That the Rhine has been well-mapped for millennia doesn't matter; there are still personal discoveries to be had. Traveling alone means I can go where I like, when I like.

Even the most desultory student of Western Europe's history and culture must be awed by the significance of the Rhine.

In Roman times, it formed the boundary between Gaul and Germania. More recently, of course, pivotal battles of two World Wars were fought here. From this river's waters sprang 19th-century Romanticism, from Heinrich Heine's "Lorelei" poem to Richard Wagner's "Rheingold."

Where does the Rhine begin? You can't help but wonder. And

there's yet another impulse that propels me upstream: Whether jumping out of a Grand Canyon raft to let my body bob through the Colorado's rapids or lying in a Vienna Woods rivulet after drinking too much new wine, serious (immersive!) travel to me has come to mean baptism in foreign waters.

## Upstream adventure

To begin the quest, I fly into Zurich; its namesake lake ultimately drains (via rivers Limmat and Aare) into the Rhine roughly 50 miles upstream of Basel. A bit farther upriver is Rheinfall ("Rhine Falls") — by most measures, at 75 feet high and 500 feet wide, Europe's largest waterfall. Faced with such a daunting obstacle on an otherwise navigable Rhine, some would-be engineers in the 17th century wanted to blow it up with gunpowder. Still, that thankfully aborted plan didn't prevent the Rhine from becoming one of the world's most engineered rivers, with a comprehensive system of levees, dredged and straightened along much of its length.

After a day recovering from jet lag, I take an early morning commuter train (S-Bahn) to Neuhausen am Rheinfall. The sleek, comfortable ride takes less than an hour, and costs around \$50 round trip. Despite damp and overcast weather, the waterfall viewing sites are flooded with visitors, including a bridal party from Japan doing a photo shoot. Formed about 15,000 years ago during the last Ice Age, the falls display a raw, magical power

with their spray and roar captivating observers over the years. The great German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe visited here three times and used water-fall imagery — "a mist-created rainbow" — in the redemptive ending of his well-known work "Faust."

On either side of the waterfall sits a castle, repurposed to provide food, drink and other services for visitors. I choose Schloss ("Castle") Laufen, and order a big bowl of roasted pumpkin and apple soup, while spreading out on the white tablecloth yet more reading material about the Rhine. This section of the river, flowing westward from Bodensee (or Lake Constance) to Basel, forms the border between Switzerland and Germany and is known as the Hochrhein ("High Rhine"). The Old Rhine Bridge in the town of Konstanz marks "Kilometer Zero" as the start of the measurement system known as "Rheinkilometer" — ending 1,033 kilometers downstream at the river's mouth in the Hook of Holland.

To explore what lies upstream of Kilometer Zero, the next day I check out of my Zurich Airbnb, rent a car and head toward the Bodensee's very eastern end. It is here, where Austria's Vorarlberg region begins, that the Rhine enters the lake from a southerly direction. This section of the river is called the Alpenrhein ("Alpine Rhine"). I book a hotel in Bregenz for just one night, but innumerable attractions tempt me to linger: From the lakeside promenade to the cable car running up the surrounding

mountain, from Roman relics to Baroque-cupola churches.

What's not an attraction in its own right, I'm disappointed to discover, is where the Alpine Rhine enters the Bodensee, just a couple of miles outside Bregenz. The Rhine here has been so tamed — for flood control and land reclamation — that it seems more like a sluice or canal than a real river racing toward the sea. Huge levees trap the water in a straight and narrow conduit. But at least on top of the earthen dams are well-maintained bike and walking paths.

In my rental car, I speed south on Route A13, which parallels the Rhine and feels a lot like a U.S. interstate highway. The river, in turn, delineates the Swiss-Austrian border and then, in about 20 miles, brushes up against tiny Liechtenstein. What country I'm in at any moment — not to mention what currency to use, euros or Swiss Francs — can be confusing. The relentless ping-pong of my cellphone, announcing a different country's telecom services, can be annoying.

Hard up against Liechtenstein is the Austrian town of Feldkirch, which becomes, in effect, a base camp during the coming days for my final assault on the source of the Rhine. Perhaps lily pad would be a better designation for the comfortable studio apartment from which I'll make daily excursions — hopping ever farther upstream. The town, whose origins trace back to the Iron Age, is situated on a Rhine tributary called the Ill. The name derives from the Celtic

## FROM PAGE 30

Rhine's "official" source.

Ancient transalpine travelers would hug the Hinterrhein — as Route A13 now does — seeking safe but tortuous passage through the mountains. But what once instilled fear now inspires awe, as I can safely park my car at observation points and marvel at how the river carved the rocks into a narrow, stunningly beautiful canyon almost a third of a mile deep. In the tiny village of Zillis, I turn my gaze upward to take in the 900-year-old wooden frescoes on the ceiling of the Romanesque church. A few miles farther rises the highest peak in this part of the Alps, Rheinwaldhorn (11,161 feet), the start of the Rhine watershed. At the San Bernardino Pass, a four-mile tunnel now connects the A9 highway to Italy and its Po River watershed.

It's chilly and overcast the following day when my car begins its ascent into the clouds hanging over the valley created by the Anterior Rhine. I'm on Route 19, a secondary road that splits from A13 very near where the two Rhine branches split. Also following the Vorderrhein is a railroad, whose famed "Glacier Express" connects the mountain resorts of Zermatt and St. Moritz.

Negotiating seemingly endless hairpin turns and switchbacks, I find myself for the first time missing a traveling companion: someone to take the wheel so I can relax and enjoy the unfolding panorama. As it is, I'm anything but relaxed, with nets on my right to catch falling rocks and flimsy snow-pole roadway markers on my left as the only barrier preventing a cliffside tumble to certain death.

Instead of bypassing charming villages, the twisting, turning road becomes their cobblestone main street. The quaint shops, historical buildings and churches with elongated, needlelike spires demand more attention than glances out the car windows. But I don't have to debate with a traveling companion whether to stop; the solitary pilgrim can push on. I do stop, however, to marvel at two covered bridges, one over a tributary's gorge, the other over the Vorderrhein itself, with the biggest hand-hewn timbers I've ever seen.

The higher the car climbs, the colder it gets, contradicting the calendar that says early spring (March). Soon, I must flip on the windshield wipers to disperse melting snowflakes. I'm now less than a half-hour away from the short hiking trail that would take me to Tomasee, the official source of the Rhine. But I no longer feels like spring, and I begin to worry about road conditions on the return trip.

Pulling the car off to the side of road, I roll down the window and listen to the trickling murmur of melting snowpack. I open the door and pick my way around the rocks and boulders to river's edge. As the sound of the rushing water builds into a chorus, I unlace my hiking boots and peel off smelly socks to dip my feet into the ice-cold water. Resigned, I realize this is as close as I'll ever get to fathoming the beginning — not just of the Rhine but, perhaps, of anything at all. At least I got my feet wet.

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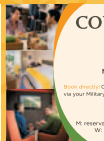
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# WEEKEND: TRAVEL



## Marching through Morocco

Berber hospitality, captivating scenery highlight 15-day tour

STORY AND PHOTOS BY NORMA MEYER

The San Diego Union-Tribune



A Berber nomad pours tea for Westerners who are hiking past his campsite near the Todra Gorge in Morocco.

In dizzyingly exotic Morocco, I'll scurry past snake charmers and hitching cobras, hang onto a bouncy camel for dear life and haggle for bargains in mysterious carpet-swathed ancient medinas. And now, in the serene far-flung mountains, I'm stooped inside a cubbyhole limestone cave watching a crouching 75-year-old Berber nomad named Ahmed hospitably brew mint tea for me while his baa-ing sheep graze nearby. A father of five with a weather-beaten, lined face, he's cloaked in a traditional beige djellabi robe and tagelmust turban wrapped on his head and under his chin's graying beard. Although he speaks no English, he welcomes a dozen of us who are on a rugged half-day hike in the spectacular sheer-sided Todra Gorge when we stumble into his rocky makeshift camp.

"American, Barack Obama," my Berber translator-guide soon tells him, pointing to me, the lone Yankee, as we sip hot tea inside a fraying goat-hair tent.

"Ahh," the septuagenarian's crinkly eyes light up. He nods at his 3-year-old son — yes, his son — who it turns out is also named Barack. (Ahmed's wife is much younger, plus "nomads are very strong," my grinning guide later explains.)

This memorable encounter — and many more — occurs on my captivating 15-day, 1,200-mile road trip crisscrossing the North African country in a tour van with small-group adventure company Exodus Travels. We journey past crumbling fairy-tale fortresses on the palm tree-garnished "Route of a Thousand Kasbahs," explore UNESCO World Heritage sites that look straight out of a Hollywood movie (in fact, "Gladiator" was filmed at one medieval mud-brick enclave), and with our Exodus guide Mohamed are immersed in the colorful indigenous Berber culture at every stop. (So far, I've swallowed an ocean full of "Berber Whiskey," the always-offered sweet mint tea that is ceremoniously poured into little clear glasses from a height — as nomad Ahmed did — to show respect to guests. Most Berbers are Muslims and abstain from alcohol.) For added atmosphere, we sleep in centuries-old mosaic-festooned homes (riads), a quirky casbah-motif hotel and a Berber desert tent camp set deep in titanic sand drifts near Algeria.

"Balak! Balak!" shout donkey cart drivers, meaning "Move aside!", which I do, although I'm distracted by two furry severed camel heads dangling from the camel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

Top: Camel herders in Morocco cross the Erg Chebbi dunes, a sweeping sea of sand.

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL



Shopping in Marrakech's old medina — shown here, an olive stand — is a feast for eyes and stomach.

## FROM PAGE 32

meat shop in Fez's narrow, hustle-bustle UNESCO-lauded medina. The ninth century-founded old town is a mesmerizing twisty maze of 9,400 skinny lanes, alleys and dead ends jammed with merchandise-packed souks (spices, olives, rugs, brocade sequined gowns for Moroccan brides who may have up to seven changes of clothes during their wedding), and intricate zellij-tiled mosques, cedar-carved Islamic academies and iron-doored residences. Our local guide, Aziz, sternly warns us to follow him; he says — jokingly, I think — that female tourists who get lost end up in harems. It's living history on sensory steroids — caftan-wearing craftsmen loudly pound copper and brass into teapots, pans and lanterns; weavers spin silk from agave cactus into rainbow-bright bedsreads and scarves; and bag-smelly tanneries produce leather goods from animal hides dipped into vats of dye.

Forty-eight hours after frenetic Fez, we're in the expansive peaceful desert on a cold February day. I've ridden a camel before, but the one I teeter upon this time is surely the world's tallest dromedary, his every step sinking into bottomless sand on the rolling Erg Chebbi dunes while I tilt, flounce and death-grip small handbanners. The landscape is storybook beautiful — just turquoise skies and infinite honey-hued sand that can reach 500 feet high, the same faded desert that ancient camel caravans traversed carrying salts, gold and spices to Timbuktu.

A bumpy 90 minutes later, at our simple tent camp, I'm pitching forward over my camel with a scream. Mohamed, in Berber-style indigo-blue cloak and flowing turban, soon leads us up a gigantic dune, our shoes punching craters in flawlessly smooth sand. From atop the powdery

peak, we're transfixed as the setting sun radiates fiery orange and pink glows over wavy wind-sculpted dunes that go on forever. The next predawn morning, I'm awakened by bellowing camels outside my tent (think of T-Rex roars).

What I like about Exodus — besides alluring itineraries and prices — is the company's charitable involvement with visited communities (this is my third international trip with Exodus; 10 of my British travel mates are multi-repeat customers). One afternoon, miles after our excellent driver, Youssef, deftly handles cliff-top hairpin turns, we arrive at a dirt path for a 90-minute walk — mules take our luggage — to the remote rural village of Tighza 6,200 feet up in the snow-capped High Atlas Mountains. This is where Exodus in 2012 funded and built a custom-made hammam, which is a public bath that is an important place for local women to socialize. Tighza's hammam also generates income for villagers since Exodus pays for its own clients, who each add in another 40 dirham (about \$4).

The following day, I'm basically in the buff lying face-up on a heated tile floor of an empty room alongside three similar prone female Exodus cohorts. Each of us has an assigned woman villager — all authentically dressed and wearing traditional headscarves — who briskly scrubs our body with an exfoliating mitt and black-olive-oil soap. I'm almost slapping happy as wood-heated water is ladled from large plastic buckets and repeatedly doused over me. This hammam is a wonderful authentic experience, and an hour later when it's over, I'm rubber-neck relaxed.

Throughout our adventure, hours on the road are never dull. We stop to amble through the dramatic Roman ruins of onetime capital

Volubilis; peer at bizarre climbing goats who perch on high branches of argan trees to eat fruit; and wander through a Berber open-air market selling dehydrated chameleon lizards for magical cures. In the verdant Valley of the Roses, we buy floral toiletries at a women-run distillery before I devour another lunch of cumin-spiced vegetable tagine.

We also explore Ait Ben Haddou, a stunning medieval fortified city (ksar) of clay dwellings once on a crucial trade route. "Gladiator," "Game of Thrones," "Lawrence of Arabia" and other Hollywood fare have filmed within its invader-detering earthen walls.

Our journey ends in wildly vibrant Marrakech, where I'm finding off-henna tattoo artists and navigating through leaping drum-thumping dancers when I almost step on three cobras coiled on the pavement waiting for their star turn in the UNESCO square. I love this chaotic massive medina, teeming with locals in pointy-hooded ankle-length djellabas and crammed with bargain-ready souks overflowing with Moroccan pottery, artisan lanterns, embellished babouche slippers and round loaves of khobz bread. To combat the bad-karma "evil eye," jewelry and door knockers are fashioned into the amulet Hand of Fatima, named after prophet Muhammad's daughter.

On the day of the Todra Gorge hike and nomad Ahmed, we have late lunch at a Berber family's mud-and-straw abode, where I play catch with the toddler son and dine on fluffy couscous while customarily sitting on floor cushions over a low table. Afterward, next door at the village carpet shop, turbaned merchant Mustafa brings out fringed piles of beautiful, handwoven Berber rugs and oh-so-wisely remarks: "Travel is the best way of study."



An Islamic mosque is a refuge of serenity inside Fez's bustling shop-packed medina.



Traditional babouche slippers fill stalls in Morocco's souks, this one in Marrakech's medina.



The crumbling Kasbah Telouet once housed a notable family. It's one of many castle-like kasbahs in Morocco.

## KNOW &amp; GO

Exodus Travels offers the 15-day "Highlights of Morocco" trip multiple times through 2019 and 2020. Prices from \$1,235 include accommodations, van transportation, guide, camel, breakfasts and some dinners. International airfare is not included. Group size 6 to 16. Online: [exodustravels.com](http://exodustravels.com).

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## WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE

# Artificial [emotional] intelligence

## Researchers wary of lifelike robots: 'Simulated love is never love'

BY RACHEL LERMAN  
Associated Press

**[W]**hen a robot “dies,” does it make you sad? For lots of people, the answer is “yes” — and that tells us something important, and potentially worrisome, about our emotional responses to the social machines that are starting to move into our lives.

For Christal White, a 42-year-old marketing and customer service director in Bedford, Texas, that moment came several months ago with the cute, friendly Jibo robot perched in her home office. After more than two years in her house, the foot-tall humanoid and its inviting, round screen “face” had started to grate on her. Sure, it danced and played fun word games with her kids, but it also sometimes interrupted her during conference calls.

White and her husband Peter had already started talking about moving Jibo into the empty guest bedroom upstairs. Then they heard about the “death sentence” Jibo’s maker had levied on the product as its business collapsed. News arrived via Jibo itself, which said its servers would be shutting down, effectively lobotomizing it.

“My heart broke,” she said. “It was like an annoying dog that you don’t really like because it’s your husband’s dog. But then you realize you actually loved it all along.”

The Whites are far from the first to experience this feeling. People took to social media this year to say teary goodbyes to the Mars Opportunity rover when NASA lost contact with the 15-year-old robot. A few years ago, scads of concerned commentators weighed in on a demonstration video from robotics company Boston Dynamics in which employees kicked a dog-like robot to prove its stability.

Smart robots like Jibo obviously aren’t alive, but that doesn’t stop us from acting as though they are. Research has shown that people have a tendency to project human traits onto robots, especially when they move or act in even vaguely human-like ways.

Designers acknowledge that such traits can be powerful tools for both connection and manipulation. That could be an especially acute issue as robots move into our homes — particularly if, like so many other home devices, they also turn into conduits for data collected on their owners.

“When we interact with another human, dog, or machine, how we treat it is influenced by what kind of mind we think it has,” said Jonathan Gratch, a professor at University of Southern California who studies virtual human interactions. “When you feel something has emotion, it now merits protection from harm.”

The way robots are designed can influence the tendency people have to project narratives and feelings onto mechanical objects, said Julie Carpenter, a researcher who studies people’s interaction with new technologies. Especially

**‘The performance of empathy is not empathy. Simulated thinking might be thinking, but simulated feeling is never feeling.’**

**Sherry Turkle**

MIT professor and AI researcher

if a robot has something resembling a face, its body resembles those of humans or animals, or just seems self-directed, like a Roomba robot vacuum.

“Even if you know a robot has very little autonomy, when something moves in your space and it seems to have a sense of purpose, we associate that with something having an inner awareness or goals,” she said.

Such design decisions are also practical, she said. Our homes are built for humans and pets, so robots that look and move like humans or pets will fit in more easily.

Some researchers, however, worry that designers are underestimating the dangers associated with attachment to increasingly lifelike robots.

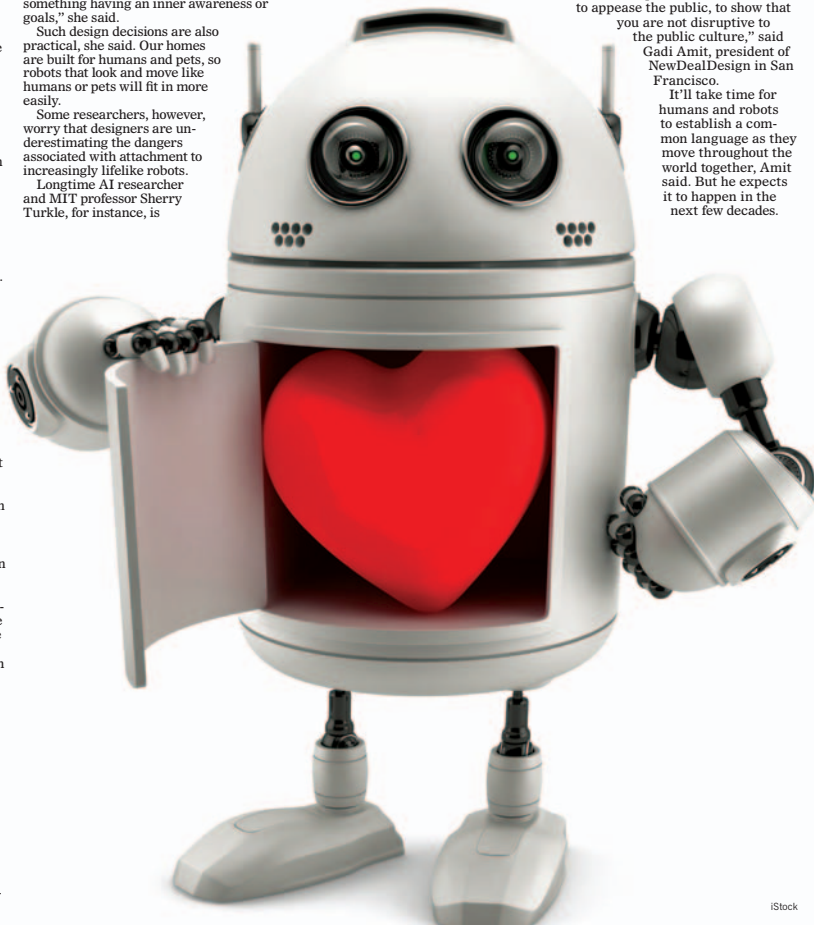
Longtime AI researcher and MIT professor Sherry Turkle, for instance, is

concerned that design cues can trick us into thinking some robots are expressing emotion back toward us. Some AI systems already present as socially and emotionally aware, but those reactions are often scripted, making the machine seem “smarter” than it actually is.

“The performance of empathy is not empathy,” she said. “Simulated thinking might be thinking, but simulated feeling is never feeling. Simulated love is never love.”

Designers at robotic startups insist that humanizing elements are critical as robot use expands. “There is a need to appease the public, to show that you are not disruptive to the public culture,” said Gadi Amit, president of NewDealDesign in San Francisco.

It’ll take time for humans and robots to establish a common language as they move throughout the world together, Amit said. But he expects it to happen in the next few decades.





## WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE

**T**here it is, dangling in the rear window of the red Honda CRV. There's another, stuck to the bumper of the minivan in front of you at the stoplight. Circle through a Target parking lot and you'll spot at least a dozen of those little yellow diamonds, emblazoned with an urgent message in all-caps: "BABY ON BOARD." To parents, they are protective talismans. To everybody else on the road, they mean a million different things, or nothing at all.

"We saw one the other day, and my 11-year-old said, 'So wait, it's OK to hit other cars but just not that one because they have a baby? What am I, chopped liver?'" says Stacey Smith, 42, of Wilmington, Del.

"When I see them, I generally appreciate knowing why a car may be driving slower than other traffic," says Jason Mandik, 38, of Chicago. "I typically give them more of a wide berth."

"I always thought of the baby-on-board stickers as status updates before the age of social media: 'How can I let everyone know I'm a mom now?'" says Greg Seale, 45, of Texas.

When the car decal made its debut in 1986, it was greeted as a fad. But 35 years later, the '80s babies who first rode around in vehicles adorned with the signs are parents themselves. Now they are the ones realizing with sudden, searing clarity what it means to strap a tiny, helpless human in a car and then drive around on roads filled with other speeding, flammable deathwagons operated by people who are probably texting their friends about last night's "Game of Thrones." And because modern capitalism promises a cure — or at least a placebo — for every spasm of parenting anxiety, the decals are still out there.

Slap a sticker on the bumper, and the immediate question — what can I do to feel better about this? — has been answered.

Perhaps we'd rather not ponder the questions that remain. Does this sign actually accomplish anything? When we display it, what are we really telling the people who pass by us? What are we telling ourselves?

The origin story of the baby-on-board decal is a story of the American Dream, the sort of tale that begins with an entrepreneurial 30-year-old man on a harrowing drive with his 18-month-old nephew in the back seat, and ends decades later with that same man selling his \$26 million Miami Beach estate to DJ Khaled.

"It was the first time in my life that I felt what a parent would feel, with this little infant in their car," says Michael Lerner, now a 65-year-old investor living in Florida, recounting the long-ago afternoon when he drove his little nephew home after a family gathering outside Boston. "People were cutting me off,

particularly protective and concerned."

A week later, Lerner, then an executive recruiter, got a call from a friend who was representing two sisters with an idea they wanted to sell: a little triangular safety sign to display in a car, with the words

"Baby Aboard."

"I don't know if I would have connected so strongly with the product if I didn't have that experience," Lerner says of his white-knuckle drive. He made the deal, tweaked the sign shape and phrasing ("Baby Aboard" felt like a boat," he says), and launched Safety 1st, a company that eventually grew to an international brand selling all manner of child safety gear.

"In September of 1984, we sold 10,000 signs," he says. "By June, we were getting orders for 500,000 a month."

But then Lerner's safety sign became something else, an analog proto-meme, hijacked by satirists who marketed snide alternatives; by 1986, stickers declaring "Baby, I'm Bored" and "Mother-in-law in Trunk" were common sightings, and sales of the original baby-on-board stickers dropped precipitously. Meanwhile, some jurisdictions outlawed the suction-cupped version on the grounds that it obstructed a driver's view. Lerner thought his product might be nearing its end.

But it wasn't. "It came back," Lerner says, the sales creeping up again as the popularity of the parody signs waned.

Lerner sold Safety 1st to the Canadian company Dorel Industries in 2000 (he walked away with a cool \$38 million). The company now makes more than 70 variations in seven languages (when in Rome, "bimbo a bordo"; for Parisian infants, it's "bebe a bord"), and more than 12 million signs have sold worldwide in the past 15 years, according to Don Bryce,

vice president of marketing for Dorel Juvenile Group.

Safety 1st protects its trademark, Bryce says, but the marketplace is still flooded with copycats and parodies. There are golden retrievers on board, parrots on board, ninjas on board and burritos on board; for nihilistic wisecrackers, there's "No baby on board, it's OK to crash into me!"

Rom-coms, sitcoms and late-night hosts have taken cracks at the signs. Homer Simpson's barbershop quartet sang a catchy ode to them. George Carlin, the late comedian, offered a particularly scathing take in a 1988 standup special: "The three most puke-inducing words humanity has yet thought of," he said, unleashing an avalanche of vivid vulgarities before concluding: "Life doesn't change because you post a sign."

This is true. But sometimes a baby changes a driver. "It always made me snort-laugh and roll my eyes seeing those damn stickers, because, 'Oh, there's a baby? I better start driving safely now! This car is extra-special!'" says Noa Manor Yag-houbian, a 33-year-old mother of two in Tenafly, N.J.

Then she visited a friend, whose firefighter husband told her that the signs can act as an indicator to first responders that there may be a wee passenger who had been thrown from a vehicle during a crash.

"I ordered one when I got home," she says. "If a silly sticker would ensure my children are cared for during a traumatic and dangerous event, I'll just add it to the ongoing list of stuff that makes me less cool."

Cannon-Marie Green, 39, of Arlington, Va., says she always despised the stickers — until last May, when she had her first baby.

"When I see one now, I know they are as much a request for safe driving as they are a request for patience or kindness," she says. "So when

I pass a car with a baby-on-board decal, I send some mom solidarity to the driver because parenting is hard, and we are all in this together."



**BABY  
ON  
BOARD!**

How a cutesy decal embodies  
the enduring terror  
of parenthood

By CAITLIN GIBSON  
The Washington Post

## WEEKEND: MUSIC

Lizzo photo courtesy of Atlantic Records  
Pink photo courtesy of RCA Records



# Adult, contemporary

## Pink and Lizzo make mature, non-icky empowerment pop

By MIKAEL WOOD  
*Los Angeles Times*

**P**ink and Lizzo both begin their new albums with funny, blaring, slightly rough-edged retro-R&B numbers in which each woman addresses a man who's done her wrong — or is sure to in the future.

In Pink's "Hustle," she's warning such a manipulator against trying it again. "You took my love, mistook it for weakness," she sings over a jumping juke-joint groove, "I guarantee I won't repeat this."

Lizzo's "Cuz I Love You," with a brass-and-piano arrangement a la early-soul powerhouse Etta James, catches her in a more exposed mood. Having thought she was "love-impaired" after too many bad experiences, now she's "standing in the rain 'bout to tat your name."

She knows it'll go south, of course. Yet Lizzo's gutsy tone taps into the same inner strength that Pink puts across. It's



### Pink

Hurts 2B Human (RCA)

clear she'll be fine.

These songs — from Pink's "Hurts 2B Human," due Friday, and Lizzo's "Cuz I Love You," which came out last week — are just one point of overlap between



### Lizzo

Cuz I Love You (Nice Life/Atlantic)

two singers offering affirmation in a pop scene filled with gloom.

Pink you know from her two decades of hits and the live show in which she spends nearly as much time in the air as

onstage — success that's positioned her, at age 39, in a unique sweet spot between the Top 40 and Las Vegas. (Believe it or not, "Get the Party Started," her breakthrough smash, came out all the way back in 2001.) Lizzo, in her early 30s, is a newcomer to the big time, a feminist social-media hero with proudly naked photo shoots and a major-label debut that follows work she did as an indie rapper (and flautist!) in Minneapolis.

But if they lack a shared background — not to mention a skin color or a body type — the music they make can feel strikingly aligned. At a moment when artists half their age are writing songs about drugs or depression, Pink and Lizzo sing about overcoming obstacles and learning to trust in their abilities; the presentation is aspirational ("Serena Willy showed me I can win the Wimbledon," Lizzo sings) yet relatable ("I'm walkin' uphill both ways / It hurts," Pink admits).

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## WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

**Norah Jones**

Begin Again (Blue Note)

Norah Jones grew to be a household name after her 2002 debut, "Come Away With Me" — an album that brought her five Grammys. She became a jazz sweetheart overnight, but quickly established that she did not want to be boxed into one genre.

Following her early success, Jones began to wander toward folk influences before dabbling in electronica, collaborating with Danger Mouse on 2012's "Little Broken Hearts." Jones returned to jazz with 2016's "Day Breaks" and has now released a collection of singles in "Begin Again."

The seven-song project harnesses Jones' ability to tap into other musical streams while maintaining a central jazz feel. Electronic influences are less pronounced than in "Little Broken Hearts," yet more present than in "Day Breaks." The subtlety is welcomed with the experimentation on "Begin Again."

"My Heart Is Full" plays with reverberance as Jones' sultry voice echoes and bounces, commanding attention. The distorted vocals in "Just a Little Bit" make the song playful without detracting from the quality of Jones' writing. Mirroring techniques used by artists like Bon Iver, "A Song With No Name" mixes the delicate with the experimental, striking a fantastic balance. It's a distinct Jones song, with post-production vocal texture. "It Was You" pulls no bells or whistles, coasting into a jazz number decorated with horns and a thundering piano.

As a collection of singles, "Begin Again" is less concerned with generating a cohesive feel throughout the album — perhaps allowing Jones more creative license. It's an entertaining assortment of Jones unrestrained. As a woman who has accumulated nine Grammys and has seven albums (not to mention two collaborative albums) under her belt, why have any restraint?

— Ragan Clark  
Associated Press

**J.J. Cale**

Stay Around (Because Music)

J.J. Cale's "Stay Around" is a posthumous collection of 15 previously unreleased tracks that is as authentic as any of the original and compilation albums he's released over his long career.

Cale, who passed away in 2013, was held in very special esteem by many illustrious musicians, the kind of admiration that led to a 2014 tribute album recorded by Eric Clapton, whose early cover of Cale's "After Midnight" was fundamental to both their careers. Tom Petty, Willie Nelson and Mark Knopfler also were part of the tribute album.

It took the Oklahoma native well over a decade to release his first solo album, in 1972, and whatever changed by the slightest of degrees over the following decades, some things stayed quite the same — his relaxed but precise sound, a devotion to his trademark country-blues shuffle and the seemingly effortless atmosphere of his voice and grooves.

Compiled from a huge accumulation of recordings by longtime manager Mike Kappus and Christine Lakeland — Cale's wife and occasional collaborator — one of the pleasures of "Stay Around" is its judicious song selection, which stretches from Cale's legendary one-man studio creations and gentle acoustic songs to full-band takes and even some banjo playing.

There's excellence at both ends of the spectrum — and everything in between. Recorded in the kitchen, the persevering "If We Try" is just voice and guitar and squeaky chair, while "Chasing You" benefits from the live drums and group sound. The Latin-tinged "Maria" could be a lost Drifters tune, and the restlessness on "Winter Snow" is accompanied by audible and claustrophobic buzz.

"Stay Around" might be, strictly speaking, an archival release, but it feels as vital and inviting as Cale usually did.

— Pablo Gorondi  
Associated Press

**Josh Ritter**Fever Breaks  
(Pytheas Recordings/  
Thirty Tigers)

Josh Ritter's "Fever Breaks" is a work of stacked marvels, the result of an auspicious collaboration with Jason Isbell — who also produced — and his band, the 400 Unit.

In places raw, chilling and emphatic, while sensitive and compassionate in others, the 10 songs cover murder, love and politics while ruminating on the wonders and burdens of our existence and its expiry date.

Opener "Ground Don't Want Me" is a brisk-paced story of murder and a frustrated search for rest, if not redemption. It is followed by "Old Black Magic," where piles of guitars help illustrate the blinding, confused environment — "And I can't see the lighthouse / And the lighthouse can't scream."

An unrelenting acoustic guitar underscores the intensity of "On the Water," which urges its target to make their long-distance relationship an intimate one, while the thirsting "I Still Love You (Now and Then)" recalls an old flame who is far from extinguished in the



singer's heart.

Protest songs have benefited from the age of social media — which has expanded their reach — while also having to overcome short attention spans and sensory overload. So "All Some Kind of Dream" shrewdly wraps its political message in a graceful, acoustic arrangement, calling for compassion and appealing to the best in us in "darker days than any others I've seen."

Horrifying in its description of a bureaucratic dystopia, "The Torch Committee" is a nightmare song that feels all too possible, while "Losing Battles" kicks off like The Grays' "Very Best Years" but quickly reveals its Neil Young & Crazy Horse fierceness.

There have been plenty of highlights in Ritter's nearly 20-year recording career, but it's the intensity of the music and imagery that makes "Fever Breaks" an especially engaging outing.

— Pablo Gorondi  
Associated Press

**Josh Ritter, right, collaborated with Jason Isbell and his band, the 400 Unit, on his 10th studio album.**

LAURA WILSON/Courtesy of Sacks & Co.

**FROM PAGE 36**

In "Happy," Pink vividly recounts the years she's spent hating her body, while Lizzo revels in her confidence in "Tempo," a collaboration with Missy Elliott in which she declares that "slow songs, they for skinny hoes / Can't move all of this here to one of those." Different sides of a coin, clearly — yet both songs open up a valuable space in pop to think through what we've been taught to believe about women's beauty.

Lizzo's "Like a Girl" flips that phrase, often deployed to mean less-than, to

celebrate femininity of all kinds: "If you feel like a girl, then you real like a girl," she insists. Pink's "Circle Game" borrows the title of one of Joni Mitchell's signature works to tell a story about wanting her daughter to view her as the protective figure that Pink once saw in her father.

That none of this comes off as preachy or simply lame is a testament to both singers' astute record-making skills.

Although the streaming age requires pop stars to be fluent in multiple genres, Pink and Lizzo are expert in more than most. Working with A-list producers including Max Martin and Greg Kurstin,

Pink moves on "Hurts 2B Human" among electronic funk, EDM-lite and the house-pony acoustic balladry that she focuses on at the end of the album. "Love Me Anyway," a duet with Chris Stapleton, feels remarkably natural given that it was almost certainly designed with a performance on some awards show in mind. (Less happily, there's also some Lumineers-style stomping in the form of the clunky "Walk Me Home.")

Lizzo roams nearly as widely on "Cuz I Love You," which she made with studio collaborators a rung or two down from Pink's — Ricky Reed and X Ambassadors,

among others — but which often sounds even better. "Juice," with a guitar lick Nile Rodgers would envy, is '80s pop perfection: "Cry Baby" throbs like vintage Prince (with whom Lizzo worked briefly not long before he died); "Tempo" somehow finds room for Lizzo's flute playing over a minimal club beat.

And then there's "Lingerie," the album's steamy slow jam of a closer, in which she dials down the brightness of her singing to paint a picture of two people in a darkened room.

Only wait: "Let's open the window," she sings, "and let the world know."



# WEEKEND: BOOKS

# Abrams' latest a handbook for outsiders

By NICOLE BRODEUR  
The Seattle Times

Stacey Abrams doesn't Google herself. No way. Especially not these days.

"I do not Google myself, I do not read comments, and I barely look myself in the eye when I look in the mirror," Abrams said recently.

If she did, Abrams would see a country and political media that are hyperbolic about the possibilities she presents as a Democratic national political figure in the run-up to a historic presidential election.

"Kingmaker or Queenmaker in 2020," declared MSNBC. "Stacey Abrams 2020?" wondered Forbes. "The Case for Stacey Abrams," said The Hill. Maybe she'll hit the trail alongside Hillary Clinton. Joe Biden. Bernie Sanders. She did announce Tuesday that she would not be running for Senate in her home state of Georgia. She was defeated in her bid for governor there last year, but made a huge mark in the process, boosting the number of black and Hispanic voters, and drawing strong sup-

port from the white, historically Republican Atlanta suburbs.

For now, Abrams is touring in support of her new book, "Lead From the Outside," which is an updated version of her 2018 book, "Minority Leader."

"Here's the thing," Abrams said, seeming to search for a new way to answer the candidacy question that just won't quit. "I think inclusion is fine. I am in contemplation and evaluation. To make a good decision, you actually need to think about it, the contours and the consequences."

"There are some moments when urgency demands an immediate decision," she said. "This is not one of those moments."

Abrams, 45, only started publicly exploring the idea of running for U.S. Senate because people were talking about it. That was before she was feeling really sincere

about it; before her Democratic rebuttal to the State of the Union Address, which helped raise her profile and land her book onto The New York Times best-seller list, where it spent several weeks.

The book is part memoir, part how-to, full of stories from the perspective of an African American woman, activist, lawyer, entrepreneur and politician. It contains solid advice for those who have long stood on the outside of the national conversation: Women, people of color, the working class, members of the LGBTQ+ community and millennials. Abrams takes on how ambition, fear, money and failure function in leadership, and helps readers recognize and activate their own skills.

"I like to solve problems," Abrams said. "I know it is a skill set, but it's also an obligation. I grew up with parents who believe that you don't simply complain, you try to find solutions and fix what's in front of you."

So that is why, when she didn't win the governor's seat, Abrams established an organization called Fair Fight Action to advocate for free and fair elections. The

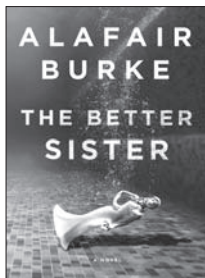
organization has filed a federal lawsuit to challenge Georgia's electoral system.

Abrams didn't concede last November's election to Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp right away. On election night, she stood before cheering crowds and said "Concession means to acknowledge an action is right, true or proper."

After 10 days, she ended her bid, losing by 55,000 votes in an election that saw almost 4 million ballots. Abrams believes her election was thwarted by voter suppression: invalidated ballots, voting machines that were missing power cords. And there was the fact that Kemp remained Georgia's chief elections regulator while running for the state's highest office.

"I will say that I was devastated, and I grieved, and then I turned it into action," Abrams said of her defeat. "My response is that it is insufficient for me to simply be angry or sad."

"It was important for me to feel it, but it is also fuel for me to do what comes next," she continued. "I have a lot that I can do to ensure that the voices that were silenced are heard in 2020 and beyond."



## 'The Better Sister'

Alafair Burke

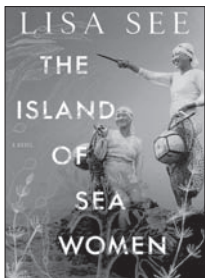
Chloe Taylor has it all together: She's editor-in-chief of a successful woman's magazine, "Eve." She also is a devoted mother to her stepson, Ethan, and loyal wife to handsome attorney Adam Macintosh. Certainly, the better sister can't be Nicky Taylor, an unstable alcoholic who is the biological mother of Ethan but lost custody of him — and ruined her marriage to Adam — because of her behavior.

Chloe and Nicky have been estranged since Ethan, now 16 years old, was a toddler. Their alienation had nothing to do with Chloe marrying her former brother-in-law. Adam and Nicky had been divorced for more than four years before Chloe and Adam became a couple.

But the sisters now need each other. On the night of receiving the highest honor of her career, Chloe returns to their East Hampton vacation home to find Adam murdered. And Ethan will need both his mothers when he is arrested for his father's murder.

Burke hits the ground running with the highly entertaining "The Better Sister," which packs in one unbelievable twist after another.

— Oline H. Cogdill  
Sun Sentinel (TNS)



## 'The Island of Sea Women'

Lisa See

Set on the Korean island of Jeju, the story takes readers on a journey spanning generations — in this case 1938 to 2008 — as moments of cherished friendship, unspeakable tragedy and an unforgettable plot twist unfold.

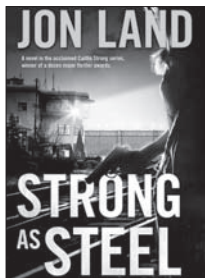
Readers are introduced to Mi-ja and Young-sook, precocious, 7-year-old best friends despite island elders' misgivings that Mi-ja's father was a collaborator with the hated Japanese, who controlled the island from 1910 until the end of World War II.

The pair grow up to become "haenyo" — Jeju's elite female deep-sea divers. Out of the water, they happily compete for everything from husbands to bearing children.

That is until Jeju's 4.3 Uprising, which resulted in the deaths of 30,000 people in 1948-49 as South Korea violently put down a rebellion over what government would control the island's future.

Mi-ja and Young-sook become innocents caught up in the slaughter. Their friendship, strained by war, death and competing families, breaks apart as they struggle on against the island's real-life historical backdrop.

— John Rogers/AP



## 'Strong as Steel'

Jon Land

Insubordinate, trigger-happy Texas Ranger Caitlin Strong is back again in another action-packed thriller, the tenth installment of the series.

In the first 40 pages, the following events unfold in rapid succession: A freighter with a crew of dead men smashes into a dock at the Turkish Port of Ordu. A bride and groom are gunned down at a drug cartel wedding in Mexico. A team of assassins wipes out the crew of a railroad train in Texas and swipes three crates from a freight car. Caitlin's lover, reformed criminal Cort Wesley Manser, rescues a Homeland Security operative on the brink of execution in Venezuela. And Caitlin, with only her side-arm, outguns a team of professional mercenaries armed with automatic weapons and RPGs.

All of this, it turns out, has something to do with the bubonic plague, a secret religious order that employs violence to protect the one true faith and a stone ossuary that may or may not contain the bones of Jesus Christ.

By the novel's conclusion, Land manages to pull these disparate elements together.

Land's fans are in for another wild ride.

— Bruce DeSilva/AP



## 'The Invited'

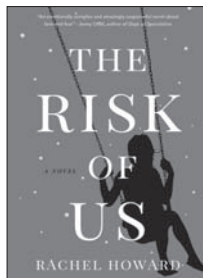
Jennifer McMahon

Helen and Nate Wetherell have good jobs at an elite private school in Connecticut. He teaches science, she teaches history. They live in a nice condo and try not to live outside their means. But Helen's ennui is palatable — vanishing only when she volunteers in a "living museum" that re-creates in the mid-1800s for visitors. While happily married, the couple's life seems set in stone until Helen inherits a large sum of money when her father dies.

The opportunity to change their lives is irresistible. They buy 44 heavily wooded acres just outside the small rural village in Vermont on which the avid do-it-yourselfers plan to build their dream home. That the land is believed to be haunted by Hattie Breckenridge who was hanged as a witch on the property in 1924 is a kind of a bonus, especially appealing to the historian in Helen. She doesn't believe in ghosts, but she does believe in history. Helen might have to rethink her views when strange things happen at the dilapidated trailer on the land where they are staying.

McMahon keeps this modern ghost story grounded in reality, even when spirits supposedly hover over the land.

— Oline H. Cogdill/AP



## 'The Risk of Us'

Rachel Howard

With breathtaking brevity, Howard's debut novel illuminates the joys, challenges, fears and frustrations of adopting a foster child. And while she delves into the minutiae of "the system" and the differences of opinion about parenting styles, her deceptively thin volume is about much more than plunging into parenthood.

Howard masterfully illuminates how parenthood manages to bend even the most solid of marriages and expose insecurities about past relationships, including those from childhood.

The unnamed narrator and her husband, Sebastian, choose 7-year-old Maresa, a brown-haired gremlin with arms flung like she could fly off the page" from a binder labeled "Children Available." They spend the next year learning about Maresa, themselves and each other as well as the clearly dysfunctional foster care system in California.

Howard and her husband also are the adoptive parents of a former foster child.

Howard's writing has a unique rhythm that feels choppy, even disjointed at first, but as the reader adjusts, her phrasing and word choices make each page sing.

— Kim Curtis/AP

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION &amp; DVD

## NEW ON DVD

**"Miss Bala":** Gloria (Gina Rodriguez) agrees to travel to Tijuana to help her friend, Suzu (Christina Riddo), prepare for a beauty contest. That trip turns deadly when Gloria is captured by a drug cartel and forced to work for them.

The remake of the 2011 film "Miss Bala" by Gerardo Naranjo works until writer Gareth Dunnet-Alcocer opts for an Americanized ending. Gone is the hopelessness and pain that made the Mexican drama so unforgettable. The necessity to bring everything to a more positive conclusion leaves the new version from director Catherine Hardwicke with less of an emotional impact.

Dunnet-Alcocer not only weakens the film with his ending that suggests all is right with the world, he never misses an opportunity to take a shortcut to keep the plot going. One of the most laughable comes when after being held captive for days, Gloria is thrust into the beauty pageant at the last minute.

It's the ending where the writer shows a lack of respect for the original film and the audience. In the 2011 film, Gloria barely survives the film's climactic battle. The new version (spoiler alert) not only has Gloria surviving, but going Rambo to help end the shootout.



Sony Pictures

**Gina Rodriguez, right, and Ismael Cruz star in "Miss Bala," now on DVD.**

Also available on DVD: **"Mission of Honor":** This is the story of Squadron 303, a group of pilots who fought in the skies over England in the Battle of Britain.

**"Decoding the Great Pyramid":** Film takes a closer look at the 6 million-ton Great Pyramid of Giza, the last surviving wonder of the ancient world.

**"Dragged Across the Concrete":** Mel Gibson and Vince Vaughn play two veteran cops who attempt to hijack a bank heist.

**"Frontline: Right to Fall":** This program is an investigation into a court-ordered effort to move hundreds with mental illness into independent living.

**"Arctic":** It is a fight for survival when a plane crashes in the frozen wilderness. Mads Mikkelsen stars.

**"Living Volcanoes":** Scientists and adventurers travel to one of the world's most dangerous volcanoes, located in the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu.

**"Finding Joy":** A woman is forced out of her comfort zone because of a new job and a breakup.

**"Tarantula":** The 1955 film about an attack by a giant tarantula is being rereleased.

**"Serenity":** Matthew McConaughey plays a fishing boat captain whose quiet life is disrupted when his ex-wife asks for his help.

**"The Brain":** A pulsating mass of gray matter explodes in size and strength as it takes control of human minds.

**"The Hole in the Ground":** A boy seems changed after he disappears and then returns.

**"Charley Pride: I'm Just Me":** This documentary traces the improbable journey of Charley Pride in the world of country music.

**"Wire in the Blood: The Complete Collection":** Dr. Tony Hill (Robson Greene) assists the police in profiling of serial killers in Northern England.

—Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service



HBO

Jessie Buckley stars in the miniseries "Chernobyl," about the catastrophic 1986 nuclear disaster in northern Soviet Ukraine.

## Likability helps Jessie Buckley land role in HBO miniseries

By LUAINNE LEE  
Tribune News Service

The beginning seemed so promising for actress Jessie Buckley. The Irish performer trekked to London when she was just 17 and soon landed a role in a play. When the run ended, she was contacted by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and was offered a free four-month course in Shakespeare. She snapped at the chance, though Buckley was primarily a musical performer.

"I went and my mind was like kew-wwy!," she shakes her head. "I all of a sudden felt completely unmoved and enlivened and awake to something that I'd never even thought would be a thing for me. And that kind of challenge of words and of making words belong to people... that first course was the first time I felt really alive and challenged," she pauses.

"Then I got drunk in a bar and became a jazz singer for two years."

Buckley explains that turn of events in her lilting Irish accent. "From the play I was doing at the West End we got this free membership to the Ivy Club. It was at the time it was just starting up.

"There was an awesome jazz piano player called Joe Thompson there and genuinely, I got drunk one night and started singing. He was like, 'I'd love to work with you.' So over the course of two, three months — it was so mad — we got a residency at Annabel's, which is this weird private club in Mayfair. And nobody listened to me (sing) because it was all Russian Mafia and odd jobs, so I learned my repertoire over three

months. And we just toured around different jazz venues in London and outside. It was completely magical," she laughs.

Magical is the word for the 29-year-old Buckley's journey so far. Although she suffered from severe depression when she was a teenager, her career trajectory has been superlative.

It reaches its zenith next Monday when she costars in HBO's five-part miniseries on the catastrophic nuclear disaster, "Chernobyl." Buckley plays Lyudmilla, the wife of a firefighter who finds herself snared in one of the worst man-made disasters in history.

"When I was growing up in Ireland, every year families would foster Chernobyl children," says Buckley.

"So when I got sent the script and Lyudmilla's story and read the humanly behind it, I was terrified, scared. You have to be as honest and tell the story as honestly as possible. So I went in and read and they seemed to like me," she shrugs.

People have always liked her. A London lawyer saw her in her first play and came backstage offering to pay her tuition at RADA, pony up her rent and cover singing and acting lessons. "And he never asked anything in return," she says.

"He is literally an angel," she sighs. "I wouldn't be doing what I am today if it hadn't been for him."

The oldest of five, Buckley attended Catholic school. Her mother is a singer and actress; her father ran a guest house and is a poet. She may owe part of her rebellious spirit to him.

When she dropped her studies for jazz, she says, "He was delighted that I was coveting around the UK. And when I went back to college at RADA, he said, 'Burn your bras! Cause havoc!'"

While she shares that carefree spirit, she's also suffered some dark days. "In the middle of that (jazz tour) I was suffering from a bad depression from when I was young," she confesses. "So I think that singing and acting was a complete escape and actually a survival kit for me to actually get out.

"And I was afraid of myself in lots of ways. I think I was trying to learn about myself by going out. You begin to know what you value and what is important to you, so at that point I think I was kind of effervescingly like a spinning top, just bulldozing through adventures and life and fearless and had no boundaries — but they felt real at the time and I'm a human person who sometimes gets sad. That's very real."

Her first significant part on television was another Russian woman — she played the sympathetic daughter, Marya, in "War & Peace." "I felt she was completely opposite to my bally Irishness," says Buckley. "She was just so delicate, like a porcelain vase, and had this beacon of hope in her heart against the odds."

In spite of her success so far, acting can be difficult, she says. "It's a struggle sometimes, and sometimes you have massive panic attacks. You think, 'I can't do this. I'm not going to do this justice.' Or, 'I haven't done enough research.' If I ever felt sure I think I probably didn't care enough. I'd be more afraid of that."

# WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

By CINDY KRISCHER GOODMAN  
Sun Sentinel

In South Florida, an area known for its high volume of successful and botched plastic surgeries, social media has brought a whole new level of craziness to the industry.

Plastic surgeons are blogging, posting on Instagram and creating stories for Snapchat that often show real patients undergoing procedures in real time. These South Florida surgeons — who practice under a variety of titles — are exposing each other's mistakes, battling negative patient reviews, swiping each other's before and after photos and pushing the line between appropriate and vulgar.

"We live in the wild west when it comes to aesthetics and treatments," said Dr. Adam Rubinstein, a plastic surgeon based in Aventura, Fla. "It's hard for people who are not in the business to make sense of it."

When it comes to plastic surgery, social media use is at an all-time high, with photos of pouty lips, big butts and flat tummies dominating Instagram posts. About 70 percent of board-certified surgeons maintain an active professional social media account, according to a 2018 survey of members of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. While doctors are building followings and luring patients, some also are fending off lawsuits and navigating the thorny digital frontier between promotion and misuse.

At the same time, people who are considering cosmetic procedures and those who have undergone them — often referred to as dolls — have their own private Facebook groups and Instagram accounts where they are asking questions, sharing photos, comparing prices and documenting their journeys — the good, the bad and the ugly.

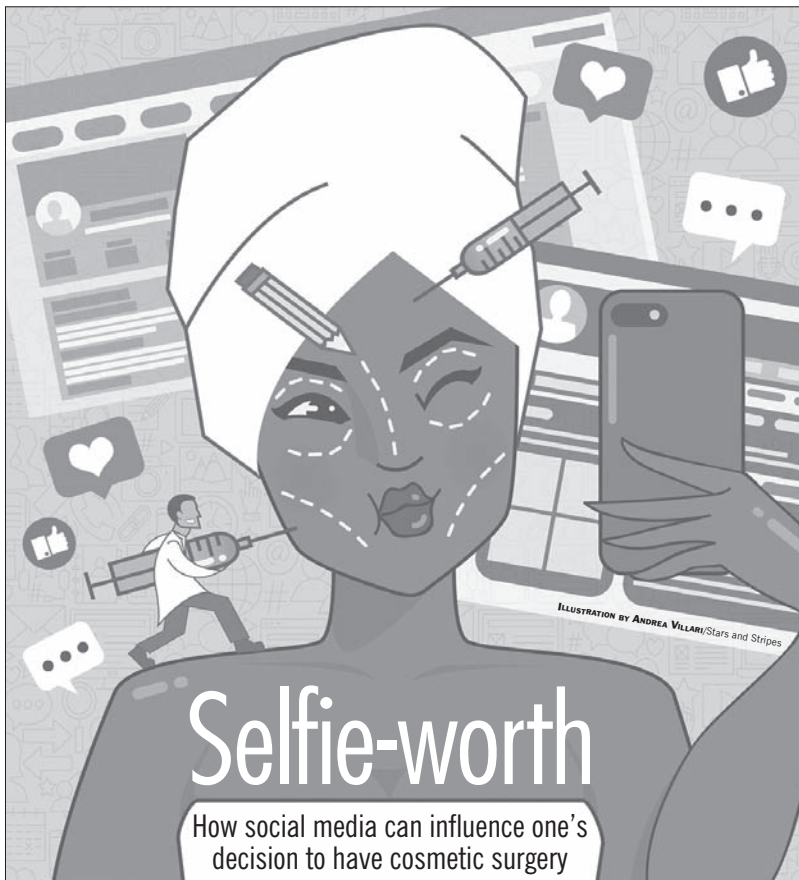
"You can look at pretty pictures on social media all day, but you don't know what someone went through," said Teresa Jones, a mother of four who has spent six months on social media researching plastic surgery in Florida. "You learn that sometimes it takes two or three rounds of surgery to fix what happened the first time."

While patients talk among themselves, plastic surgeons, cosmetic surgeons, dermatologists and a variety of practitioners are using social media as the new yellow pages to promote their practices. They quickly find that photos and online reviews have even greater mileage than the old-fashioned word of mouth. Rubinstein runs an Instagram account called @PlasticSurgeryTruths with nearly 33,000 followers where he answers questions such as how to get rid of dark spots and how to know if your skin is good for liposuction. Along with that account, Rubinstein is an active blogger and about to launch a YouTube channel where he will go behind the scenes to explain the materials used in plastic surgery procedures.

Rubinstein said he participates actively on social media "to educate the public and keep things transparent." He also uses social media to expose what he claims are bad practices in the profession and the people involved in them. He runs an Instagram series called "Exposed" that highlights "self-proclaimed" cosmetic surgeons or clinics who have a plethora of medical malpractice lawsuits against them.

"There's so much deception going on in social media and people who are putting themselves out there as plastic surgeons who are not," he said.

Another South Florida surgeon using social media to promote his work has learned that doing so can have consequences. Dr. Christopher Salgado, formerly the section chief of UHealth's LGBTQ Center for Wellness, Gender and Sexual Health, is no longer employed by the University of Miami Health System. Salgado ran into trouble with posts



on his Instagram account called @sexsurgeon, which is no longer active. Transgender advocates complained to the university about the Instagram account's graphic photos of gender reassignment surgery and crude hashtags, including a Valentine's Day post with a photo of a penis of a transgender patient shaped in a heart with the comment, "There are many ways to show your LOVE," as reported by The Miami Herald. Salgado, who gained recognition when he consulted with TLC reality TV star Jazz Jennings on her gender confirmation surgery on an episode of "I Am Jazz," has since apologized in an email to the newspaper. Jazz is a South Florida transgender woman who has publicly documented her journey on television and YouTube.

Yet, even while social media has become treacherous, South Florida plastic surgeons say it's necessary to do business. Plastic surgery-related hashtags have risen dramatically, appearing in nearly 1.8 million posts on Instagram, most of them promotional rather than educational, according to a January 2017 analysis published in the Aesthetics Surgery Journal. At the same time, the number of cosmetic and plastic surgery procedures has boomed. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons found more

than a quarter-million more cosmetic procedures were performed in 2018 than the previous year.

Along with photo posts, South Florida surgeons are getting increasingly promotional on social — performing live operations on Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube and reality television shows, boosting the area's image as one of the top places in the country for new boobs and the popular Brazilian Butt Lift.

"We're in the age of consumerism," said Jeffrey Welch, CEO of Florida Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale. "If you are going to have something done, you want to go to the best and you're going to look at pictures."

Knowing this, Welch said doctors need to recognize the ethical issues that could arise, such as infringing on patient privacy and misrepresentation of results or credentials. "You have to be careful and cognizant of what you are posting," Welch said. "At the hospital, we have our own corporate guidelines."

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons also has a code of ethics that addresses the use of social media with guidelines for its board-certified members.

Miami plastic surgeon Carlos Wolf said he was one of the first in South Florida to use social networking tools to bring pa-

tients' families and the general public into operating rooms with real-time updates and videos.

"It is an important means of marketing for the practice," he said.

Fatima Coco of Fort Lauderdale said Wolf's live surgical procedures have her considering a nose job.

"Watching him do surgery gives me confidence that he knows what he is doing," she said.

For all the upside of social media as a marketing tool, Wolf also has seen "the dark side" of the digital frontier. Pretending to be Wolf, an impostor created a social account with Wolf's photo and his patients' before-and-after photos. The person behind the account tried to dupe online shoppers, doling out advice and asking for an upfront consultation fee. Wolf said many people are overly trusting of what they see online. "The problem is with social media you could make yourself be looked at as an expert, as an unbelievable surgeon, and be a worthless piece of (expletive)," Wolf said. "Some people put exaggerated stuff on the internet — extreme makeovers that calls attention to them. It's very unsafe, but get them out there where they can get 'likes' and attention."



## WEEKEND: FAMILY

iStock



# BABY TALK IT UP

As silly as it sounds, goo-goo and ga-ga are good for infants' learning

BY ROSEMARY COUNTER  
Special to The Washington Post

**B**efore our daughter was born, my husband and I agreed on this one most-important parenting rule: There would be no ridiculous baby talk at our house. No goo-goo or ga-gas, no little sockies on little footsies, and absolutely no cuddles after squaarrrry dreams.

"The trick is to talk to them like little adults," my husband declared with full childless confidence. We'd each read exactly one parenting book — "Bringing Up Bebe," on the fabulous French art of raising a child who plays quietly and eats foie gras — and bought in to the poise and dignity it promised.

Then the baby arrived. Cut to a year later: Those plans have been long abandoned, and though I'm not proud to admit it, here's some real-life dialogue from my house: "Hi, Baby! Did Baby have a nap? She diiiiid! Was it a good nap? It wwwwaaassssss!?"

As a writer, I'm deeply ashamed. But as a mother, I take odd comfort and some strange pride that I've learned to speak Baby.

In just a few sleepy months of intense immersion, I mastered the infections, intonation, grammar and vocabulary ("Who mastered it? Mommy mastered it!") of what many linguists consider a language proper.

"Most mothers — and fathers, grandparents, even siblings — on the planet do this," says Patricia Kuhl, a professor and co-director of the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences at the University of Washington. "It's both a deep scientific puzzle that harkens back to the evolution of language and the most ubiquitous, observable, natural phenomenon in the world."

So common and familiar and inevitable are these babbles and coos that linguists have long given the communication mode its own name: "Motherese," although linguists are pushing for the gender-neutral "Parentese," or the even more inclu-

sive "Caretaker Speech" or "Infant-directed speech."

Whatever you call it, Motherese sounds the same and you already know it: "There's a higher pitch, more variability in tones and a whole lot of repetition," says linguist Alison Gopnik, a psychology professor at the University of California, Berkeley and author of "The Scientist in the Crib." "Vowels get further apart, which just means acoustic exaggeration," says Kuhl. "It has simpler grammar, here and now words — here comes a big red bus, there's a cow! — with curvy intonation and pleasant sounds."

**Baby talk can be grating, irksome and downright unbearable to the baby-less, who are quick to dismiss it as mortifying nonsense that could never happen to them.**

All the above teach baby about language — both in general and their specific language — in the easiest, most efficient way. "Just when baby's brain is mapping human language, they're getting pure forms with clear, distinguishable words," says Kuhl.

Research published in *Pediatrics* last year found those hours upon hours of one-sided conversations could pay off in the years to come: Early talk and exposure to conversation during the narrow developmental window between 18 and 24 months, they found, accounted for a 14 to 27 percent variance in vocabulary, comprehension and higher IQ scores 10 years later.

So should mommies and daddies talk to themselves all day? They should!

The good news is, they probably won't have to try too hard. "Quite unconsciously," says Gopnik, "you'll adjust your language to your baby. It just comes out."

Bit by bit, Motherese crept onto my lips and into my life and settled deep in my psyche. Soon I found myself pushing my baby in her stroller, having a full-on conversation with myself: "Brrrr! Is today hot or cold? Cold! Do you see snow over there? What color is snow?"

White! Unless it is yellow. Oooh, do you see any doggies in that park? You do? Look at that doggy wearing a coat. Now why would a dog wear a coat? That's ridiculous, Mommy! What does a dog say? Woof woof!

People who pass me look and listen: First with confusion, then embarrassment on my behalf (thanks for that), or even irritation. And I understand; baby talk can be grating, irksome and downright unbearable to the baby-less, who are quick to dismiss it as mortifying nonsense that could never happen to them.

But if you find yourself a parent, it can, it probably will and it definitely should happen.

To do it well, do not talk to them like little adults — but do engage in the same basic human decency you'd all anyone else. Do not interrupt, ignore or avoid eye contact in favor of your phone.

"You're trying to talk to a baby, not at them," says Kuhl. Speak slowly, like you might to any non-English speaker, using short sentences with proper grammar. Slightly over-enunciate your words, especially nouns and verbs, which may migrate naturally to the end of your sentences. "It's easier to remember a word that comes last rather than a word somewhere in the middle," says Kuhl.

It doesn't matter what you're talking about, as long as you're talking. "Parents want to buy a book or take a class, because that's the way they've learned all their other skills," says Gopnik. "My real advice to parents is to chill out and do whatever you're doing."

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Get educated before you pass the bean dip

**W**ho-hoo! It's Cinco de Mayo, that time-honored tradition commemorating Mexico's Independence Day, when we join with our geographic neighbors south of the border for festive celebrations of this pivotal day in Mexican history ... right?

Actually, no. In America, most of us don't know the true origins of Cinco de Mayo, but let's face it — anyone there is an excuse to indulge in adulterated ethnic cuisines, Americans take it.

To the people of the Emerald Isle, green beer and corned beef are about as Irish as Lucky Charms, but Americans gobble the stuff on St. Paddy's Day. In China, you can't find fortune cookies, egg rolls, orange chicken and cardboard take-out containers with red pagodas printed on the sides, but Chinese take-out night in America is no fun without these ethnic treats. Why stomach the sauce-disguised organ meats of real French cuisine, when you can just grab a croissant and a Diet Coke at Au Bon Pain and still feel fancy? We don't really care that no one in Italy eats spaghetti and meatballs, fettuccine Alfredo with chicken, unlimited breadsticks and bottomless salad bowls because, in America, "That's Italian!"

Americans are so intent on bastardizing ethnic cuisines, we even do it to ourselves. On Thanksgiving Day, we don't eat the gamey venison, goose and claims that our Pilgrim and Wampanoag predecessors served with their wild turkeys. Instead, we supplement our Butterfarms with green bean casseroles topped with french-fried onions, canned yams layered with mini-marshmallows and pumpkin cheesecakes slathered with Cool Whip.

Perhaps our huge American egos and unfettered ethnocentricity has brought us to this, but should we be condemned for making our own fun?

More than a decade ago, I was invited to a friend's Cinco de Mayo party when our family was stationed in Virginia Beach, Va. The hosts were a Navy pilot and his wife, who threw great parties. They rented a frozen margarita machine, set up their karaoke machine and a dance floor complete with chili pepper lights in their garage, served a complete buffet of Mexican foods such as jalapeno poppers and seven-layer bean dip, and passed around lime and tequila Jell-O shots.

At the time, I had no idea what Cinco de Mayo history was, but I had a blast celebrating it nonetheless. I even brought along our 86-year-old houseguest, Mabel, who was visiting from England. There she sat on a folding chair in the garage, tapping her cane to the beat of "La Bamba," munching chips and salsa from a sombrero-shaped platter. As an Englishwoman, she knew even less about Mexican history than we did, but as long as the queso dip and tequila were flowing, ignorance was bliss.

Actually, in Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is a relatively minor blip on the calendar. It originates from the one-day Franco-Mexican War Battle of Puebla in 1862 in the small town in east-central Mexico, when a thrown-together army of poorly supplied and outnumbered locals defended the town against an attack by 6,000 French troops. This was not a strategic win, as the beleaguered Mexico — the French didn't withdraw until 1967 — but the courageous victory made the history books nonetheless. The event is virtually ignored in Mexico, limited mostly to the area where the battle took place.

However, according to a study at UCLA's Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, Mexican-Americans in Southern California began celebrating Cinco de Mayo as early as 1863, when it became a way to bind Latinos and other Californians together in a collective identity.

So, before you embarrass yourself while under the influence of too much tequila at a party on May 5, just remember: Cinco de Mayo has become a celebration of Latino-American culture. It is not Mexican Independence Day, which happened on Sept. 16, 1810, and involved the Spanish, not the French.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com)

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### PAPER WORK

BY SAMUEL A. DONALDSON AND DOUG PETERSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Samuel A. Donaldson is a law professor specializing in taxes and estates, at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Doug Peterson is a professional crossword constructor in Pasadena, Calif. They met at the 2008 American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, became friends and started making puzzles together — working back and forth by email. Doug attended Sam's wedding in 2012. They are prolific contributors both individually and with others. — W.S.

- ACROSS**

1 Measure of a stone

6 Purchase of proof?

13 Takes up a lot of space

20 "Don't cry for me" singer

21 Enchant

22 Mine transport

23 Scratch paper?

25 Hangs around

26 Most stylish

27 2013 film whose lead actress is never seen

28 Liquid paper?

29 Acted as

30 What Oberon orbits

32 Relay closer

36 Construction paper?

4 Bugs from the underworld

45 Jane Austen heroine

46 Grrp, that usually meets in the evening

47 Veiled criticism, in slang

48 Fly paper?

52 Assn.

54 That stinks!

55 Mormon Church, for short

56 Spreads in the kitchen

57 Hyundai model

60 Horror director Roth

61 K-12

63 Broadway's Carrou

64 Periods of note

65 Pop group whose name derives from the initials of its members' first names

67 Wax paper?

70 Note paper?

75 Bygone auto whose name sounds like a command

76 "I want details!"

78 506, in old Rome

79 Trade jabs (with)

80 Ending with body or spy

82 Expresses exasperation toward

85 Some trumpets

87 Size above med.

88 Bygone sitcom set around Houston

90 La-la lead-in

91 Position paper?

94 Competitor of Reach

96 Settings for some TV dramas, for short

98 First place?

99 Prophet who inveighed against the "sins of Israel"

100 Wall paper?

103 Segue to the next part of a story

104 Contribute

105 Warhol subject

106 Term paper?

110 Exclamation that's usually doubled

113 Doggy treat

118 The least little bit

119 Crepe paper?

121 Terrapin catcher

122 Humanitarian operation

123 Trap at a ski lodge, perhaps

124 Wound

125 Chilean catch

126 Bridge positions

**DOWN**

1 Hanna-Barbera collectibles

2 Profess

3 Singer Ora with three solo #1 hits in Britain

4 Abbr. on an envelope

5 Class one might take for kicks?

6 Deep hole

7 Baltic dweller

8 It helped bring dinos to life in "Jurassic Park"

9 "That's a good burn!"

10 Take a walk on the wild side?

11 John \_\_\_\_, three-time Gold Glove first baseman

12 Authorize to

13 Craft created on a board with nails

14 Rules of engagement?

15 "The Ten Commandments" villain

16 Human rights lawyer

17 Depression follower, for short

18 Office PC connections

19 Routine: Abbr.

24 Body part whose name contains another body part

28 Deliberate and unprovoked

31 Grave letters

32 Unhurried walker

33 Noggin

34 Drum kit component

35 Half a laugh?

36 "Shoo!"

37 Ones making calls, informally

38 "Pepper ..." (classic soda jingle)

39 Eye surgeon's tool

40 n + 1?

41 Deluded to great acclaim

42 Talent show that jumped networks, familiarly

43 Actress Polo

49 Volunteer's offer

50 Grant factor, sometimes

51 Symbol in many a URL

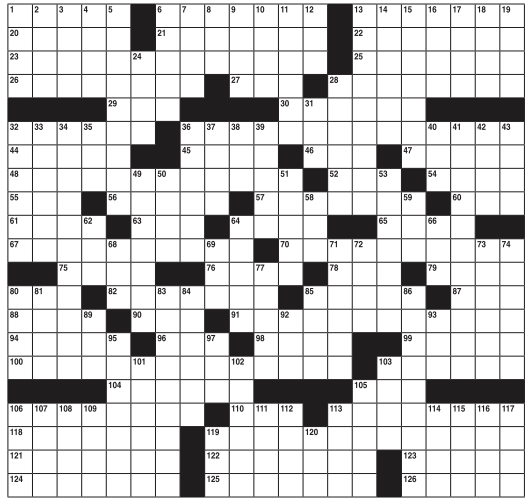
53 Harsh

58 Neutral color

59 SALT subject, for short

62 Marker, informally

64 Inventor Howe



- 66 Part of an after-school lineup

68 Some N.F.L. linemen: Abbr.

69 App annoyances

71 Actress Findley

72 Welsh "John"

73 "What she said"

74 El Greco, e.g.

77 Symbol of strength

80 Critter that likes to lie in the sun

81 Prefix with -naut

83 Immigrant's desire

84 Really busy doing

85 Modern education acronym

86 Clothing symbol for a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge

89 Exclusively

92 Running around

93 Sexy

95 Portable place to sleep

97 Take a load off

101 Relative of a Vandyke

102 Family name on "The Dick Van Dyke Show"

103 "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria

105 Butcher's stock

106 Portable places to sleep

107 "Movin' \_\_\_\_" ("The Jeffersons" theme)

108 Old Roman autocrat

109 One of the Jacksons

111 Hospital fluids

112 Former "Meet the Press" host Marvin

113 People who are totes close

114 Often-pantomimed hit song of the 1970s

115 "Cheers" actor Roger

116 Soldier's assignment

117 Tush

119 Some undergrad degs.

120 Soul from Seoul?

## GUNSTON STREET



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## FACES



REBECCA CARAGE, INVISION/AP

Zac Efron, right, and Lily Collins star in "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile." The Netflix film explores the relationship between serial killer Ted Bundy and his girlfriend of six years.

BY LINDSEY BARR  
Associated Press

There is hardly any violence in the Ted Bundy movie "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile," which premieres on Netflix on Friday and stars Zac Efron as the notorious serial killer. It was a deliberate choice on the part of filmmaker Joe Berlinger, now something of a Bundy scholar with this fictionalized film and his popular Netflix documentary series, "Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes."

Berlinger believes that re-creations of crimes have a "numbing effect" that desensitizes audiences.

Plus, "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile" is told from the point of view of Bundy's girlfriend, Elizabeth (Liz) Kloofier, a single mom who dated Bundy for about six years starting in 1969 and through some of his trials. He was executed on death row in 1989.

Kloofier believes in his innocence even while everything seems to point to the contrary.

"It's based on what Liz would have seen, which is nothing," said actress Lily Collins, who plays the part of Kloofier. "In order to make the audience feel like they're in the mindset of Liz at the very end of the movie, you have to earn that. And it almost heightens the anxiety because you're teeter-

ing on the edge of, 'is he or isn't he guilty?'"

Collins and Efron decided to take the leap into the darkness of this story together. The two have been friends for more than a decade.

Efron had his hesitations about taking the role. "I had heavy reservations about playing a serial killer, especially one so popular as Ted Bundy," Efron said. "I didn't want to glorify or be a part of a project that glorifies any aspect of Ted Bundy or what he did. Nor am I interested in telling something just because it was true or shocking."

But the script, which Michael Wervie adapted from Kloofier's 1981 memoir, "The Phantom Prince: My Life with Ted Bundy," was different than he expected.

"I liked the idea of bringing attention to the element of Ted Bundy that was so charismatic, and who was able to win over the world and yet be so evil and duplicitous," Efron said.

Neither Efron nor Collins are fans of the true-crime genre, which is booming on streaming services and in podcasts, but they understand why it's so popular. Efron noted that the Bundy case, which was televised nationally in the U.S., might have helped contribute to the current obsession.

Both are sure they couldn't have taken something like this on any earlier in their lives.

"Honestly, if you would have asked me to try and do this a few years ago I don't think I would have been capable," Efron said.

## Chelsea Handler launching her first podcast

From wire services

Chelsea Handler is the first to admit she has commitment issues, which is why she's easing into podcasting with a limited series recorded from the current tour promoting her latest best-selling memoir, "Life Will Be the Death of Me."

In the book, Handler writes about the self-discovery that came out of a year of intense therapy and what she learned. She also reflects on the accidental death of her brother, who fell off a cliff while hiking in Wyoming at age 22, when she was 9.

Handler told The Associated Press on Wednesday that it's nothing new for her to be honest, but she's never done anything that's been received as well as this book. She wanted to keep

the conversation going and the podcast, which debuts May 23 on the iHeartPodcast Network, will have the same title.

"It's not hard for me to be personal. That's my comfort zone and I like to air my dirty laundry," and she wanted to show that therapy isn't a taboo subject.

The podcast will consist of 20 episodes featuring conversations between Handler and friends, including Mary McCormack and Connie Britton, along with journalist Jake Tapper and audio from the book. New episodes will post on Thursdays.

### Other news

■ Musician Kanye West is working with Showtime on "OmniVerse," which is being de-

scribed as "a limited half-hour anthology series examining the many doors of perception. Season One explores the Ego through an alternate reality Kanye West." Jaden Smith is attached to star as a younger, alternate-reality version of West.

■ Remy Ma has been arrested on a misdemeanor assault charge. Police say the 38-year-old Grammy-nominated rapper is accused of punching her "Love & Hip Hop New York" co-star Brittney Taylor in the face during an April 16 concert at Irving Plaza in Manhattan.

■ Actor Rick Schroder was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of domestic violence for the second time in a month. He was arrested for a similar incident with the same woman in April.

## Drake breaks Swift's Billboard award total

BY MESFIN FEKADU  
Associated Press

Mother's Day is in a couple weeks, but Drake gave his mom an early gift with a heartfelt speech at the 2019 Billboard Music Awards, where the rap star also broke Taylor Swift's record for most wins.

Drake turned up the love for his mom when he picked up top artist, besting Cardi B, Ariana Grande, Post Malone and Travis Scott. He won 12 awards Wednesday in Las Vegas, making his career total 27 (Swift has 23 wins).

He said: "I just want to thank my mom for her relentless effort in my life."

"I want to thank my mom for all the times you drove me to piano. All the times you drove me to basketball and hockey — that clearly didn't work out. All the times you drove me to 'Degressi.' No matter how long it took me to figure out what I wanted to do, you were always there to give me a ride, and now we're on one hell of a ride," Drake said.

Family bonding was a theme at the three-hour show, which aired live on NBC and was hosted by Kelly Clarkson.

Ciara's young son and husband, NFL player Russell Wilson, danced along while she worked the stage, and Nick and Joe Jonas gave kisses to Priyanka Chopra and Sophie Turner of "Game of Thrones" fame, whom they sang in the audience before hitting the stage. Brendon Urie of Panic! at the Disco looked to his parents as he accepted top rock song, quoting the name of his current hit: "Hey Look Ma, I made it!"

Mariah Carey's twins cheered as she sang a medley of her hits and accepted the Icon award.

Cardi B, the night's top nominee with 21, won six awards, including top Hot 100 song for "Girls Like You" with Maroon 5.

"I remember when Maroon 5 hit me up to do this song. I was like, 'Bro I'm five months pregnant. I can't even breathe.' But this record to me was so amazing. I was like, 'Oh this is going to be a hit.' And now I sing this song to my daughter because she's the girl that I need," she said.

Swift kicked off the show when she brought her new music video to life with a colorful, eye-popping performance of her song "ME!"



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Drake accepts the award for top male artist at the Billboard Music Awards on Thursday in Las Vegas. Drake won 12 awards.

Dancers wearing bright, pastel colors spun in the air holding umbrellas and a marching band kicked off Swift's performance — maybe she was inspired by Beyoncé's new Coachella film?

Madonna, wearing an eyepatch, teamed up with Colombian singer Maluma for a performance, but it was Grammy-winning Christian artist Lauren Daigle who had the night's best performance, singing "You Say."

BTS, who performed alongside Halsey, also had a major night. At the Billboard Awards and American Music Awards, the K-pop band had only previously won "social" awards based off their fanatic fan base, but on Wednesday BTS picked up top duo/group, besting Grammy-winning groups like Maroon 5, Imagine Dragons and Dan + Shay.

### Winners in select categories

Top Hot 100 song: "Girls Like You," Maroon 5 featuring Cardi B

Top Billboard 200 album: Drake,

"Scorpion"

Top artist: Drake

Top new artist: Juice WRLD

Top female artist: Ariana Grande

Top male artist: Drake

Top duo/group: BTS

Top R&B artist: Ella Mai

Top rock artist: Imagine Dragons

Icon award: Mariah Carey

Full results online at billboard.com

## 'The Mueller report' officially a bestseller

A published edition of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into alleged ties between Russian officials and Donald Trump's presidential campaign sold just under 42,000 copies last week, NPD BookScan reported Wednesday.

Jointly edited by Scribner and The Washington Post, "The Mueller Report" sold more than any nonfiction book on the BookScan list, which tracks direct store sales and reflects around 85% of the print market. The Scribner-

Washington Post, released as a paperback, also will top The New York Times' combined print and e-book bestseller list that comes out Sunday, May 12.

Like such previous government documents as the Starr Report and the 9-11 Commission analysis, the Mueller Report was so highly anticipated that it became a popular book even though anyone can read it for free. (Numerous web sites, including The Washington Post's, offer downloads.)

From The Associated Press



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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471900) is published weekly (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

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## OPINION

## Trump just latest to resist Hill subpoenas

By MICHAEL W. MCCONNELL

*Special to The Washington Post*

Never before have so many congressional committees issued so many subpoenas demanding documents and testimony from so many executive-branch officials, with so little attempt at negotiation or accommodation. President Donald Trump says he will invoke executive privilege on "all" of them. Attorney General William Barr balks at appearing before a House committee to discuss the Mueller report without changes in the format. Democrats threaten impeachment, and solemn commentators proclaim that Trump's refusal to comply subverts America's constitutional system of checks and balances.

How quickly Washington forgets — when it is convenient. Trump is not the first president to resist congressional investigation of the inner workings of his administration, and Barr is not the first Cabinet officer to negotiate the terms of his appearance before a committee.

Does anyone remember President Barack Obama? In 2011, the House Oversight Committee investigated a disastrous Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives operation, intended to track illegal gun sales, that put weapons in the hands of Mexican criminals. An assistant attorney general denied to Congress that the Obama administration even knew of the program. The administration later admitted the claim was false.

The Oversight Committee subpoenaed Justice Department documents about Operation Fast and Furious and the decision to file claim. Attorney General Eric Holder said he would comply with the subpoenas only if the committee agreed in advance

to close its investigation. The committee threatened to hold Holder in contempt.

Obama invoked executive privilege. The administration claimed that compliance with the subpoena would "inhibit the candor" of executive branch deliberations and that "compelled disclosure would be inconsistent with the separation of powers established in the Constitution."

The House voted 255 to 67 declaring Holder in contempt of Congress — but Holder unsurprisingly declined to prosecute himself. The House went to court seeking to force his compliance, but the Obama administration ran out the clock. Holder never complied with the subpoena and went unpunished for the contempt.

Then there was President George W. Bush and his response to the House Judiciary Committee subpoenas regarding his administration's 2006 dismissal of nine U.S. attorneys: Bush invoked executive privilege. The House voted White House counsel Harriet Miers and one of staff Jack Bolton in contempt of Congress and went to court seeking enforcement of the subpoenas, the first such lawsuit in American history. The House won in District Court, but a court of appeals immediately stayed the decision, which ceased to matter at the end of the Bush administration.

Resistance to congressional demands for documents and testimony goes back to America's earliest days. After Gen. Arthur St. Clair's calamitous encounter with native tribes in the Ohio territory in 1791, the House launched the first oversight investigation into executive malfeasance. The House empowered a committee "to call for such persons, papers, and records, as may be necessary to assist their inquiries." The House demanded papers and testimony from Secretary of War Henry Knox.

President George Washington convened a Cabinet meeting to discuss the demand. According to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson's notes, the Cabinet unanimously agreed that the House had the right to conduct an inquiry (apparently because it involved the expenditure of public money) but that congressional requests for information from a Cabinet officer must be presented through the president himself. Washington and his Cabinet also concluded that the president has the right to withhold any papers he believed "the disclosure of which would injure the public." In response, the House passed a substitute motion "that the President of the United States be requested" to provide what papers "of a public nature" as might be "necessary to the investigation." In the end, after exercising his discretion, Washington sent the House all the papers it had asked for.

What does this history tell us? That disputes over congressional demands for documents and testimony are as old as the republic. Congresses demand; presidents resist. Generally, after a political tussle, the two sides meet somewhere in the middle.

This process cannot take place if one side assumes it has unilateral authority to demand whatever it wishes and that any delay or resistance from the other branch is categorically illegitimate. Trump should abandon his attempt to defy "all subpoenas" but the House should recognize that the executive is an equal branch of government with constitutional privileges of its own. For a president to assert the rights of his office is neither blameworthy nor impeachable.

Michael W. McConnell, a former federal appellate judge, is a law professor and director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford University.

## How we can fix the broken primary process

By BRIAN KLAAS

*Special to The Washington Post*

In nine months, fewer than 200,000 Iowans will cram into a series of high school gymnasiums and church basements. They won't look much like a mirror of America. A disproportionate number of them will be rural farmers. And yet, it's a pretty good bet that a tiny, unrepresentative sliver of Iowans will decide the next Democratic nominee to be the president of the United States.

The presidential nominations process is broken. Most democracies have a leadership nomination process that lasts weeks or months; in the U.S., it's measured in years. Most democracies give equal weight to voters regardless of where they live; in the U.S., the decision is almost always made in two states that represent just over 1% of the population. And in most democracies, you don't have to be a millionaire or raise tens of millions to carry your party's banner on an election. In the U.S., you're toast if you're not raking in millions weekly.

But perhaps the most bizarre aspect — and the easiest to reform — is the presidential primary calendar. That the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary are first isn't just unfair; it's also undemocratic. And while it's an amusing to see the weird spectacle of one candidate and 10 locals crowded into a living room in Dubuque, Iowa, it's time for the parties to flex their muscle and allow other states to have their turn at the front of the line.

Since 1972, only one major-party presidential candidate has won his party's nomination without appearing either Iowa or New Hampshire (Bill Clinton in 1992). There have been 18 competitive races to

be the Republican or Democratic nominee for president in that period. In 95% of those races, the path to victory went through either Iowa or New Hampshire. All four of the most recent Democratic nominees won Iowa. That's a problem — because you'd be hard-pressed to pick two states that are less representative of the U.S. population. The United States is 61% white, compared with 86% of Iowa and 91% of New Hampshire. Nearly 1 in 5 Americans is Hispanic or Latino. In Iowa, it's 1 in 16, and in New Hampshire, 1 in 27. And finally, nearly 1 in 7 Americans is black. In Iowa, it's 1 in 26, and in New Hampshire, it's 1 in 62.

There's a massive rural bias, too. Des Moines and Manchester are the country's 100th and 263rd largest metropolitan areas, respectively. And that matters because there is evidence that federal policy gets swayed by early caucus and primary states as candidates pander to win.

Furthermore, the Iowans who participate in the caucuses aren't even representative of Iowa. Sixty percent of eligible Iowans participated in the highly competitive 2016 Democratic caucus. And there are skeins within that group, too. A single parent juggling two jobs has a harder time setting aside a few hours walking around a gymnasium simply to have his or her voice heard. One study found that each Iowa caucuser and each New Hampshire primary voter has between four and five times the impact on the nominee as those who vote on Super Tuesday, several weeks later.

Regional bias is a problem too. What about the South and the West?

There is, however, one significant virtue of the current system. Rather than having a single national primary — which would ensure that only the established front-run-

ners and prolific fundraisers could win — the early small-state model is a good one. It allows lesser-known candidates (such as Barack Obama in 2008) to emerge. But it's simply indefensible for it to always be the same two unrepresentative states.

Twenty-seven states have a population below 5 million. They should be put into a lottery system, in which four of those 27 would be randomly selected to go first, one from the West, one from the South, one from the Northeast and one from the Midwest. The South and Northeast would be paired for the first day of voting; the Midwest and West for the second. In each subsequent election, the regional order would flip. And if a state won the lottery in 2020, it wouldn't be eligible to win it in 2024.

Then, the remaining 46 states should be divided into four groups of similar population size and with regional proportionality. Four Super Tuesdays would follow, every two weeks, representing such large delegate counts that even the last one could prove decisive. Whichever bloc of states balance while ensuring that the nomination process is competitive.

If we started from scratch, nobody would tolerate the idea that two states would always get such outsize influence. But over time, tradition has supplanted rationality, and our broken system has become entrenched. Fixing it is long overdue.

Brian Klaas is an assistant professor of global politics at University College London.

# OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

### UNC-Charlotte now known for a distinction no school seeks

#### The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer

It's our turn, Charlotte, to live the nightmare.

It's our turn to see the breaking news email about gunfire, to feel the notification buzz on our phone, to be jolted that our city is included in the next words we read.

It's our turn to watch aerial footage of places we've walked, to watch video loops of cautious police leading students who might know.

It's our turn to pray that we don't know the victims or shooter, then to pray for those who do.

It's our turn to see tweets from our public officials to avoid "shocks and saddens" from our governor who is en route to the scene, from our members of Congress who are "monitoring the situation."

It's our turn to have Gabby Giffords send her sorrow our way.

It's our turn to type tweets or Facebook posts about students who were as kind like every other student about holding your child a little tighter tonight, and feel it a little more intimately this time.

It's our turn to wonder what on earth we can do to change this, to wonder if better school security or mental health awareness anything might stop this plague of gun violence.

It's our turn to hope that this shooting might be that catalyst for change, perhaps even locally or with state lawmakers.

It's our turn to realize that it won't, that we're no different than Red Lake or Santa Fe or so many others.

It's our turn to realize news are different now.

It's our turn to see that networks aren't breaking in to programming to cover this school shooting, that Twitter isn't putting snark on hold, that national newspapers aren't going to put this tragedy on their front pages.

It's our turn to realize that if that notification on our phone was about gunfire in another city, we too might have mentally swiped it away.

It's our turn to understand that it's no longer big news when someone walks into a classroom and starts firing, that mass shootings happen with such regularity that they've become more like all the other shootings with all the other guns.

It's our turn to also understand that "thoughts and prayers" from Republicans have worked, just not the way we want. They've worked as a stall and diversion, a way to keep something from happening to say anything, until the next shooting happens and everyone moves on.

Because everyone does move on now. And they will again, more quickly each time. This is the new nightmare — that we've become deadened to the worst in us because it no longer feels like our lives. It's just who we are, and it's our turn to live it.

### Warren's student debt relief plan is simplistic and unfair

#### The Orange County (Calif.) Register

The bidding war for votes in the Democratic presidential primary has escalated quickly in recent days with a proposal by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren to wipe out student debt, courtesy of the taxpayers.

Warren's proposal, put forward not in proposed legislation but in a blog post, would cancel up to \$50,000 of student debt for every American with household income



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Students observe a moment of silence at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte on Wednesday, the day after a gunman killed two people and wounded four others.

over \$100,000. Individuals with household incomes up to \$250,000 would also get debt relief, though not quite as much. She says this will benefit 95% of the 45 million Americans who are carrying student debt.

The proposal is estimated to cost \$1.25 trillion over 10 years. Warren says the money would come from a plan she previously proposed — a tax on accumulations of wealth collecting 2% of \$50 million or more of household net worth, and an extra 1% on \$1 billion and up. Assuming nobody leaves the country over it, the tax would add about 75,000 families and raise \$2.75 trillion over 10 years. Warren also wants to spend \$100 billion expanding Pell grants to cover nutrition expenses, and make public colleges tuition-free.

The wealth tax might raise more legal challenges than revenue. The Constitution prohibits any national "direct" tax not collected evenly from the states, based on property with outstanding student loans, until the Constitution was amended in 1913. An additional tax on "wealth" that has already been taxed as income might run into trouble at the Supreme Court. But even without debating the legality of a wealth tax, the idea of canceling student debt by having taxpayers cover it is terrible.

Start with the problem of fundamental fairness — student debt would be canceled for all income-eligible borrowers with outstanding loans without regard to financial need, so even people who are working and able to make regular payments would get the bailout. On the other hand, people who did not take out loans they couldn't afford to repay, and people who already repaid their loans, would be out \$50,000 for making responsible financial decisions.

Then there's the problem of moral hazard. If the taxpayers pay the debts of everyone with outstanding student loans, how will that affect the decisions made by current students thinking about their choices for financing higher education? What's the message? Borrow as much as you can and wait for the debt to be canceled during the next presidential primary campaign?

The proposal certainly doesn't encourage restraint in tuition increases. Universities considering whether to raise tuition could reasonably believe there's no need to hold the line when the new policy is to step in and generously pay off old student loans with somebody else's money.

It's also troubling to hear a sitting United States senator so casually proposing the confiscation of some people's property so it can be given to other people. Warren has also put forward a proposal for a "Real Corporate Tax" that would collect \$1 trillion over 10 years as well as an increase in the estate tax.

Student debt weighs on millions of Americans and on the economy more broadly as

people find it more difficult to obtain credit or make major purchases. Serious proposals for new repayment plans and eventual debt forgiveness deserve consideration and debate in this presidential race.

But Warren's plan doesn't.

### Barr torched his reputation, distorted Mueller's findings

#### The Washington Post

Attorney General William Barr entered office with more credibility than many Trump appointees. A veteran of the George H.W. Bush administration, Barr avowed loyalty to the Justice Department's mission and, nearing the end of his career, seemed to have little incentive to serve as another Trump sycophant. Yet Barr has lit his reputation on fire, and he just added more fuel during his Wednesday testimony before a Senate panel.

The hearing centered on the attorney general's decision to release a highly misleading representation of the findings of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. In particular, Barr failed to acknowledge the alarming nature of Mueller's analysis on whether President Donald Trump obstructed justice, and he did not explain why the special counsel declined to say whether Trump was guilty of the charge. This really matters. Given the damning account in Mueller's report, what appeared to be keeping the special counsel from accusing the president of criminal acts was not the lack of evidence but the fact that the president cannot be charged under Justice Department rules.

Barr defended himself Wednesday by insisting that his memo, publicized weeks before he released any additional material, was technically accurate, despite the fact that his spin deeply affected the reception of Mueller's full report when the public finally got it. It was not supposed to be a full summary of the report, he insisted — just a brief explanation of the top-line conclusions. Barr's long history in Washington belies his argument. He should have known how his pre-spinning of the Mueller report would distort the findings of the special counsel's damning findings to the president's benefit. He did it anyway.

The Post revealed Tuesday that, shortly after Barr released his memo, Mueller sent a letter to the attorney general, objecting that the memo "did not fully capture the context, nature, and substance" of the special counsel's report. Barr did not mention that letter when he told members of Congress last month that he had no knowledge of any frustration on the part of Mueller's staff. In other words, after releasing a spin job on the Mueller report, he misled Congress on whether the special counsel was unhappy about the report.

On that and other matters, Barr has cited

personal conversations with Mueller to defend his actions. According to Barr, the special counsel was more unhappy with the media coverage of the attorney general's memo than with the memo itself. Barr also insisted that Mueller said Justice Department policy on charging sitting presidents did not determine his decision on accusing Trump of a crime, even though there was a key consideration in the analysis Mueller included in his report.

It is long past time the public stopped hearing Barr's views on how Mueller feels and heard from the special counsel himself. The Justice Department should enable Mueller to speak publicly and under oath at the earliest opportunity. The special counsel should address not only his substantive findings on the president's misbehavior but also the attorney general's manipulation of his work. Not just Trump should be held accountable for his actions. So should his attorney general.

### SC unable to follow Ga.'s path to reduce number of abortions

#### The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle

Not this year, apparently.

It would have been nice to have seen a pro-life victory in the Delaware House of legislators in both Georgia and South Carolina in defense of the most vulnerable of human lives.

At least this year, it looks like it's only going to be Georgia to have a new state law that would prohibit abortions after a heartbeat is detected in the womb, which can be as early as six weeks. If it already isn't signed into law by the time you're reading this, Gov. Brian Kemp will pick up his pen very soon.

I ran the last two years on these issues, and I got elected with the largest number of votes in the history of the state of Georgia, and I'm proud to say that. If it already isn't signed into law by the time you're reading this, Gov. Brian Kemp will pick up his pen very soon.

In South Carolina it's a different story. On April 24 that state's House passed its version of the "heartbeat bill" firmly along party lines. House Democrats were arguing that Republicans push abortion legislation on the record as "told people I would do," Kemp said a few weeks ago.

The State newspaper in Columbia.

"This waste of time is sickening to me," grumbled Democratic Rep. David Mack.

Shall it be said, then, that the distinguished legislator from the 103rd District is on the record as "told people I would do" the lives of children in the womb as "a waste of time"?

Now the bill is in the state Senate, and with just days to go before the legislative session ends, supporters of the bill simply don't have the votes. Senate Majority Leader Dan Claitor, in May, said he was "a lot of interest in trying to push it next year. ... It's a math question right now. We didn't have enough (votes) last year, and we have fewer votes this year."

If Senate Republicans have an incentive to delay the bill, they're all up for reelection in 2020. And even single-respecter of human life in the Palmetto State is potentially a foot soldier in this fight — ready to overwhelm senators with phone calls, emails and other social media campaigns to prod them into pushing the bill through.

If they don't, the failed abortion bill might become the first of a series of bills that these people vote for next year — and don't think the senators don't know it. With their political lives at stake, politicians need to think about the lives of unborn children.

In Georgia, the bill on the governor's desk states plainly that "unborn children are deserving of the same respect as natural persons." And the premeditated killing of a human being is murder. It couldn't be simpler.

If the battle for South Carolina's heartbeat bill can't be won this year, we advise lawmakers to immediately start stockpiling the way of recorder. Who knows how many lives are at stake?

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



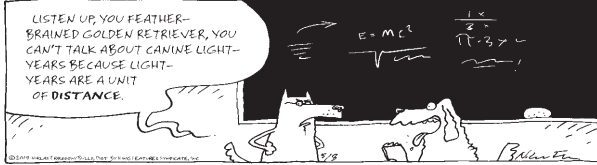
Non Sequitur



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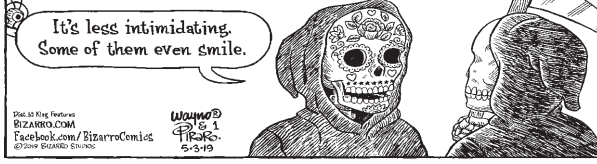
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15				16				17				
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20			21		22				23	24	25	26
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38				39	40			41	42	43	44	
				45				46		47		
48	49	50	51							52		
53					54					55		
56					57					58		

## ACROSS

- Justice Dept. agency
- Physician's nickname
- Grating
- Vintage
- 13 Away from WSW
- 14 Mountain crest
- 15 Set afire
- 16 Yosemite peak featured in "Free Solo"
- 18 "CSI" evidence
- 19 Dewy
- 20 Billboard
- 22 Swiss peak
- 23 Bloke
- 27 Author Fleming
- 29 Abrasion
- 31 Planet cirdlers
- 34 Heart line
- 35 Coffeehouse bill collector
- 37 L-P link
- 38 Utah ski resort
- 39 "Yoo—"
- 41 Pottery oven
- 45 Quotable Yogi
- 47 Eastern path
- 48 Bygone
- 52 Copper head?
- 53 Tierney of "The Affair"
- 54 Superlative suffix
- 55 Texer's chuckle
- 56 Velocity

## DOWN

- Creates origami
- Russian pancakes
- Luggage attachment
- Consider
- Borrowed
- Director DeMille
- Engrossed
- "Exodus" hero
- Fixed
- Sch. org
- Hankering
- 17 Nile vipers
- 21 Martial arts warrior
- 23 Swindler
- 24 Guffaw syllable
- 25 Suitable
- 26 Green shade
- 28 Simile part
- 30 Paint container
- 31 1959 Kingston Trio hit
- 32 Texas tea
- 33 Choose
- 36 Mother of Zeus
- 37 Gloomy
- 40 Sequence
- 42 Tuscany setting
- 43 Hard work
- 44 Seasonal songs
- 45 Thin nail
- 46 Nick and Nora's dog
- 48 Ambulance initials
- 49 Napkin's place
- 50 Payable
- 51 Mine material

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	V	L	A	P	P	S	H	A	H
C	S	I	A	R	E	A	E	A	V	E
V	I	N	E	G	A	R	Y	R	H	O
			T	W	O		T	U	R	B
D	I	N	E	O	N	P	O	I		
U	K	E	N	O	G	C	A	C	T	I
M	E	R	E	W	E	T	N	O	O	N
B	A	S	I	L	M	V	P	Q	R	S
			G	A	G	S	A	V	A	N
W	I	T	H	O	U	T	L	I	U	
E	T	A	T	I	R	A	L	E	V	I
R	A	S	H	L	E	G	O	I	C	I
E	L	K	S	D	E	A	R	N	U	T

## 5-3

## CRYPTOQUIP

SVJ JXFIDXGQ SXHGIUTHE  
SOIKOIU XU HXK T CTNI FQ  
KYUNIQ KX DI JYMMYCIHK?

## FXTJK MIUKVTHCQ!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU POPULATE AN EMPTY MEADOW WITH LOTS OF MALE SHEEP, I'D CONSIDER THAT RAM-IFICATION.

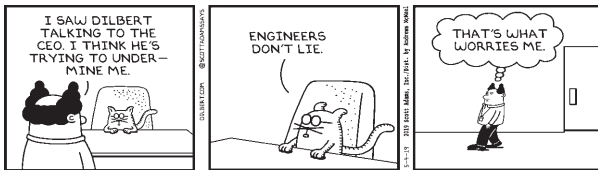
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals O



Frazz



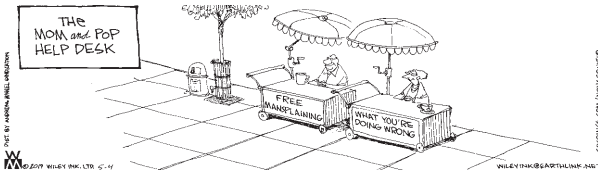
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Non Sequitur



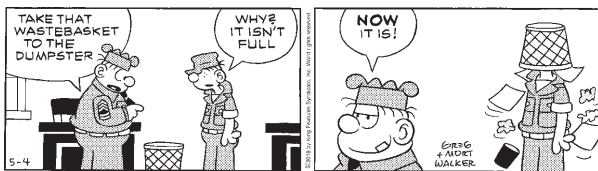
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19					20			
				21					22			
23	24	25								27	28	29
30										32		
33										35		
38	39	40								42	43	44
45												
48												
51												

### ACROSS

- 1 Discoverer's call
- 4 Island near Java
- 8 "Cheers" order
- 12 Brooch
- 13 Oodles
- 14 Plotting
- 15 Swelled head
- 16 Reed and Rawls
- 17 "Hud" actress Patricia
- 18 Star of "NCIS: Los Angeles"
- 21 Klutz
- 22 Singer Starr
- 23 Photo book
- 26 Witty one
- 27 Crater part
- 30 Corp. kingly
- 31 24 hours
- 32 Cab cost
- 33 Sauce source
- 34 Novelist Rand
- 35 Avid
- 36 Anderson
- 37 Calendar abbr.
- 38 Official flower of Chicago
- 45 Cash advance
- 46 Manhattan area
- 47 Lennon's love
- 48 During
- 49 Nest setting

### DOWN

- 1 Oil cartel
- 2 Lofty
- 3 — about (roughly)
- 4 Fragrant wood
- 5 Unfriendly
- 6 Noisy
- 7 "Not a problem!"
- 8 Energizer mascot
- 9 Fencing sword
- 10 List-ending abbr.
- 11 Bakery buy
- 19 Debtors' notes
- 20 Pester
- 23 Rm. coolers
- 24 Sign before Virgo
- 25 Lad
- 26 Pallid
- 27 Joplin tune
- 28 Anger
- 29 Debussy's "La —"
- 31 Ming, for one
- 32 Kismet
- 34 Reply (Abbr.)
- 35 Seconded
- 36 "True Colors" singer Lauper
- 37 Different
- 38 Not naked
- 39 Abode
- 40 Banister
- 41 Asta's feeder
- 42 Relocate
- 43 Squad
- 44 NYC gallery

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

FBI	DOC	RASPY
OLD	ENE	ARETE
LIT	ELCAP	PITAN
DNA	MOIST	
SIGN	ALP	CHAP
	IAN	SCRAPE
MOONS		AORTA
TIPJAR	MNO	
ALTA	HO	KILN
	BERRA	TAO
ELDORADO	ADOS	ABE
MAURA	EST	LOL
SPEED	REA	YRS

### 5-4

### CRYPTOQUIP

YH LFFPLXD LD HCATBC HCYD  
DHLBPZ DLHYXP CLD LMXPLZR  
GAUUPIGPZ. Y BTPDD Y'U

MLHP HA HCP FLXAZR.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WAS SOMEBODY WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT I LIKE MY TURKEY TO BE SUCCULENT? MOIST CERTAINLY!

Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals T

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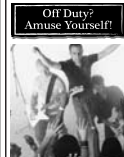
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## SCOREBOARD/COVER

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## College baseball

## Wednesday's scores

**EAST**  
Boston College 2, Harvard 1  
Chestnut Hill 8-4, Kutztown 5-1  
Fairfield 7, Hartford 4  
Fitchburg Dickinson 5, John's 4  
Georgetown 6, UMBC 3  
George Washington 12, Coppin St.  
La Salle 4, LIU 3  
Maine 8, Dartmouth 7  
Manhattan 2, Stony Brook 1  
Marist 7, Holy Cross 5  
Maryland 5, Villanova 2  
Northwestern 7, Bryant 6, 10 innings  
Old Westbury 11, Mount St. Vincent's  
Pittsburgh 26, UMES 5  
Quinnipiac 5, Cent. Connecticut 5  
Rutgers 5, Rider 4  
St. Bonaventure 9, Niagara 5  
St. Peter's 8, Lehigh 6  
Seton Hall 7, Lafayette 1

**SOUTH**  
U-23, Bethune-Cookman 0  
Baylor 14, Mount St. Mary's 13  
Morehead St. 8, Marshall 2  
VCU 11, VMI 2

**MIDWEST**  
Belmont at Evansville, ccd.  
Bowling Green at Ohio State, ccd.  
Dayton 6, Bowling Green 3  
Eastern Michigan 3, Cleveland State 1  
Missouri 21, SE Mo. St. 5  
Ohio at Miami (Ohio), ccd.  
St. Norbert 4, Concordia Wisconsin 1  
Valparaiso at W. Michigan, ccd.  
Kentucky 10, Eastern Kentucky 1  
Youngstown St. 10, E. Michigan 4

**SOUTHWEST**  
Texas Rio Grande Valley 6-11, Texas  
Tech 3-10

**FAR WEST**  
Grand Canyon 9, New Mexico 7  
Kansas 11, Air Force 6

## Deals

## Wednesday's transactions

**BASEBALL**  
**MLB** — Suspended San Francisco Giants pitcher-league RHP Logan Webb, 80-games without pay after testing positive for hydroxychloroquine/tetrasestosterone

**American League**  
**BALTIMORE ORIOLES** — Recalled OF Anthony Santander from Norfolk (IL).  
**WHITE SOX** — Placed RHP Javyier RHP Thayer Viera Charlotte (IL). Purchased the contract of RHP Evan Marzetta from the Yankees.

**National League**  
**CINCINNATI REDS** — Recalled RHP Matt Bowman from Louisville (IL). Optioned OF Phillip Evans to Louisville.  
**NEW YORK METS** — Placed RHP Jeurys Familia on the 10-day IL. Selected OF Luis Ryan Ochoa from Syracuse (IL).

**MLB PADRES** — Transferred RHP Miguel Diaz to the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Phil Matton to El Paso (PCL). Selected RHP Cal Quantrill.

**SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS** — Optioned LHP Tyler Blach to Sacramento (PCL). Selected C Stephen Vogt from Sacramento. Placed RHP Logan Webb on the restricted list.

**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
**CHICAGO BEARS** — Exercised their fifth-year option on LB Lekeio Floyd.  
**CLEVELAND BROWNS** — Waived G David Bright.

**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** — Signed LBS D.J. Alexander, Najae Goode and Ramik Wilson.

**MIAMI DOLPHINS** — Waived CB Dee Delaney, QB Luke Falk and DE Jeremiah Walton.

**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
**DETROIT RED WINGS** — Signed C Joe Veleno to a three-year contract.

**NASHVILLE PREDATORS** — Signed F Matthew Olivier to a two-year contract.

**RCFA** — Named Tom Gouge Chief Operating Officer and Director of Rodeo Administration.

**Major League Soccer**  
**MLS** — Announced an independent review panel unanimously rescinded the one-game suspension and accompanying fine for the violent conduct of red shirt Seattle Sounders FC M Cristian Roldan received in the match against the Los Angeles Football Club.

**COLORADO RAPIDS** — Fired coach Anton Hudson. Named assistant coach Connor Casey interim head coach.

**SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC** — Signed F Alfonso Ocampo-Chavez.

**CONFERENCE CAROLINAS** — Named Christopher Colvin commissioner, effective June 1st.

## Tennis

## Estoril Open

**Wednesday**  
**At Clube de Tenis do Estoril**  
**Estoril, Portugal**  
**Purse: \$584,200 (W750)**  
**Surface: Clay-Outdoor**  
**Singles**

**Second Round**  
Joao Domingues, Portugal, def. John Millman, Australia, 6-3, 2-1 retired.  
Nicola Pietrangeli (1), France, def. Reilly Opelka, United States, 6-3, 6-3, 6-0.  
Stefanos Tsitsipas (1), Greece, def. Diego Andreatto, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.  
Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-1, 6-2.

**Doubles**  
Guillermo Duran and Maximo Gonzalez, Argentina, def. Rameez Khan, United States, and Joe Salisbury (1), Britain, 3-6, 7-5, 10-7.  
Nicola Pietrangeli (1), France, def. Wesley Koolhof (4), Netherlands, and Taro Daniel and Fred Gil, Portugal, 6-3, 3-6, 10-4.  
Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, def. Joao Domingues, Portugal, and Pedro Martinez, Spain, 5-7, 6-4, 10-6.  
Gerard Granollers and Marc Lopez, Spain, def. Mackenzie McDonald and Reilly Opelka, United States, walkover.

**Quarterfinals**  
Luke Bambridge and Jonny O'Mara, Britain, def. Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, and Joao Sousa (3), Portugal, 6-2, 6-1.

## Prague Open

**Wednesday**  
**At Sportstadium Praha**  
**Prague, Czech Republic**  
**Purse: \$226,700 (W750)**  
**Surface: Clay-Outdoor**  
**Singles**

**Second Round**  
Tamas Korpatsch, Germany, def. Andreea Karolina Sanchez, Slovakia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0.  
Peng Qi (3), China, def. Mandi Milne, Luxembourg, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.  
Bernarda Pera, United States, def. Antonia Lotner, Germany, 6-2, 6-4.  
Karolina Muchova, Czech Republic, def. Jennifer Brady, United States, 6-3, 6-7, 6-2.

**Doubles**  
First Round  
Anna Kalinskaya, Russia and Viktoriya Kuznetsov, Slovakia, def. Alicia Roscolli and Iga Swiatek, Poland, 7-5, 6-7 (6), 11-9.  
Dalla Jakupovic, Slovakia, and Paula Kania, Poland, def. Priscilla Hon, Australia, and Li Tscherning, Switzerland, retired.

**Quarterfinals**  
Nicole Melichar, United States and Kveta Peschke (3), Czech Republic, def. Beatriz Haddad Maia and Luisa Stefani, Brazil, 5-7, 6-4, 10-5.  
Anna Kalinskaya, Russia and Viktoriya Kuznetsov, Slovakia, def. Miyu Kato, Japan, and Storm Sanders, Australia, 6-4, 10-5, 10-5.

**Pro soccer**

**MLS**  
**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
**T F T Pts GF GA**  
Philadelphia 5 3 2 7 17 10  
D.C. United 5 3 2 7 17 10  
Montreal 5 3 2 7 17 12  
Toronto FC 4 2 1 13 19 13  
Columbus 4 2 1 13 8 11  
Orlando City 3 3 3 12 13 14  
New York City FC 2 4 3 9 12 13  
Chicago 2 4 3 9 8 9  
New York 2 4 2 8 9 9  
Cincinnati 2 2 6 8 8 16  
New England 2 2 6 8 10 9

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**W L T Pts GF GA**  
Los Angeles FC 7 1 1 22 25 8  
LA Galaxy 5 1 3 18 12 12  
Seattle 5 2 2 17 14 9  
Houston 5 2 1 16 15 8  
Minnesota United 4 3 2 14 18 15  
Real Salt Lake 3 2 4 10 10 16  
Sporting KC 2 5 2 8 12 19  
San Jose 2 5 2 8 12 19  
Portland 1 5 3 6 7 12  
Colorado 1 5 3 6 7 12  
New England 2 2 6 8 10 9

**Friday's game**  
Vancouver at Colorado  
**Saturday's games**  
LA Galaxy at New York  
FC Dallas at Houston  
Toronto FC at Orlando City  
New York City FC at Montreal  
Portland at Philadelphia  
Columbus at D.C. United  
Chicago at Minnesota  
Portland at Real Salt Lake  
Cincinnati at San Jose  
San Jose at Los Angeles  
**Sunday's game**  
Atlanta at Sporting Kansas City

**Friday's game**  
Vancouver at Colorado  
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LA Galaxy at New York  
FC Dallas at Houston  
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Cincinnati at San Jose  
San Jose at Los Angeles  
**Sunday's game**  
Atlanta at Sporting Kansas City

Denisa Allertova and Tereza Smitkova, Czech Republic, def. Makoto Ninomiya, Japan and Yana Sizikova, Russia, 6-2, 6-4.  
Dalla Jakupovic, Slovakia, and Paula Kania, Poland, def. Shuko Aoyama, Japan and Abigail Spears (2), United States, 6-7, 6-1, 10-7.

## Morocco Open

**Wednesday**  
**At Royal Club de Tennis**  
**Rabat, Morocco**  
**Purse: \$226,700 (W750)**  
**Surface: Clay-Outdoor**  
**Singles**

**Second Round**  
Hsieh Su-wei (2), Taiwan, def. Lara Arruabarrena, Spain, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.  
Natalia Vikhlyantseva, Russia, def. Ivana Luchecchi, United States, 6-4, 6-0.  
Maria Sakrari (6), Greece, def. Isabella Shinklova, Bulgaria, 6-4, 6-3.  
Johanna Konta (7), Britain, def. Ana Bogdan, Romania, 6-1, 6-7 (6), 6-2.  
Ysaline Bonaventure, Belgium, def. Tamara Zidansek, Slovakia, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.  
Alia Tomicjanovic (4), Australia, def. Timea Bacinszky, Switzerland, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.

Rebecca Peterson, Sweden, def. Polona Hercovic, Slovenia, 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.  
Elise Mertens (1), Belgium, def. Ivana Jorovic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-0.

**Doubles**  
First Round  
Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez and Sara Sorribes Tormo (1), Spain, def. Greet Minnen and Alison Van Uytvenck, Belgium, 6-1, 7-6 (2).  
Alexa Guarachi, Chile and Sabrina Santambrogio (4), Italy, def. Tereza Zidansek, Slovakia, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.  
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## Women's World Cup

Krieger scores  
spot in US team

By ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press

Defender Ali Krieger and midfielders Allie Long and Morgan Brian earned spots on the U.S. team that will defend its title at the Women's World Cup.

All three were widely considered to be on the bubble for the 23-player roster announced Thursday by coach Jill Ellis.

Krieger started against Belgium on April 7, her first appearance since an exhibition against Russia on April 6, 2017. It will be the third World Cup for the 34-year-old right back, who has 99 international appearances.

The youngest player on the squad for the 2015 World Cup in Canada, Brian has struggled with injuries in recent years and has played just once this year, in a January exhibition against France. But the 26-year-old has experience, with 78 international appearances.

Long, 31, has been in and out of the national team after making playing in the 2010 Olympics. The tournament in France starts June 7, and the U.S. had first-round matches against Thailand, Chile and Sweden.

Carli Lloyd made her fourth World Cup squad, most among the players picked Thursday. Lloyd, 36, scored three goals in the 5-2 U.S. victory over Japan in the 2015 World Cup final in Canada, but she likely will have a support role in France, playing off the bench. The oldest player on the roster, she is among nine U.S. women to have played in four or more World Cups.

Defender Tierna Davidson, the U.S. Soccer Federation's 2018

**Wednesday, May 8**  
Toronto FC at Atlanta  
LA Galaxy at Columbus  
Portland at Vancouver  
**Friday, May 10**  
Portland at Vancouver  
**Saturday, May 11**  
Montreal at FC Dallas  
Philadelphia at Toronto FC  
New York City FC at LA Galaxy  
Los Angeles FC at Columbus  
San Jose at New England  
Minnesota United at Chicago  
Real Salt Lake at Seattle  
Houston at Seattle  
**Sunday, May 12**  
Orlando City at Atlanta  
Sporting Kansas City at D.C. United

**Wednesday**  
**Union 2, FC Cincinnati 0**  
**FC Cincinnati**  
**Philadelphia**  
**Second half - 1**, Philadelphia, Proby yko, 2 (Mbatzo), 63rd minute; 2, Philadelphia, Picault, 1 (Usin), 70th.

**Goalies - C**, Cincinnati, Spencer Riecke, 90 minutes; 2, Philadelphia, Picault, 1 (Usin), 70th.

**Yellow Cards - Philadelphia**, Truist, 15.  
**A - 12,890.**

**MLS scoring leaders**  
**Through Wednesday**  
Carlos Vela, LFC 11  
Diego Braghini, LA 11  
Krisztian Nemcs, LA 11  
Diego Rossi, LFC 6  
Jozy Altidor, TOR 6  
Kei Kamara, COL 5  
Nani, ORL 5

**Defender Ali Krieger, above, and midfielders Allie Long and Morgan Brian have been included on the U.S. national team roster for this summer's Women's World Cup in France. All three were widely considered on the bubble for the 23-player roster.**

## Roster

**Goalkeepers:** Adrianna Franch (Portland Thorns), Ashley Harris (Orlando Pride), Alyssa Naeher (Chicago Red Stars).

**Defenders:** Abby Dahlkemper (NC Courage), Tierna Davidson (Chicago Red Stars), Crystal Dunn (NC Courage), Ali Krieger (Orlando Pride), Kelley O'Hara (Utah Royals), Becky Sauerbrunn (Utah Royals), Emily Sonnett (Portland Thorns).

**Midfielders:** Morgan Brian (Chicago Red Stars), Julie Ertz (Chicago Red Stars), Lindsey Horan (Portland Thorns), Rose Lavelle (Washington Spirit), Allie Long (Reign), Samantha Mewis (NC Courage).

**Forwards:** Danni Fenton (Portland Thorns), Carli Lloyd (Sky Blue), Jessica McDonald (NC Courage), Alex Morgan (Orlando Pride), Christine Sinclair (Wendie Renard), Mallory Pugh (Washington Spirit), Megan Rapinoe (Portland Thorns).

— Associated Press

Young Player of the Year, is the youngest player on the roster at 20. Davidson skipped her senior season at Stanford and was taken with the No. 1 overall pick in this year's National Women's Soccer League draft by the Chicago Red Stars.

In addition to Krieger, defenders Kelley O'Hara and Becky Sauerbrunn made their third World Cup team, joining forwards Tobin Heath, Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe.

Crystal Dunn, the last player left off the roster for the 2015 World Cup, had 15 goals in the NWSL that year and is among 11 Americans headed to their first World Cup.

Players who didn't make the roster but were also thought to be on the bubble were midfielders McCall Zerboni and Andi Sullivan, and defender Casey Stoney.

The roster must be submitted to FIFA by May 24.

**Wednesday, May 8**  
Toronto FC at Atlanta  
LA Galaxy at Columbus  
Portland at Vancouver  
**Friday, May 10**  
Portland at Vancouver  
**Saturday, May 11**  
Montreal at FC Dallas  
Philadelphia at Toronto FC  
New York City FC at LA Galaxy  
Los Angeles FC at Columbus  
San Jose at New England  
Minnesota United at Chicago  
Real Salt Lake at Seattle  
Houston at Seattle  
**Sunday, May 12**  
Orlando City at Atlanta  
Sporting Kansas City at D.C. United

**Wednesday**  
**Union 2, FC Cincinnati 0**  
**FC Cincinnati**  
**Philadelphia**  
**Second half - 1**, Philadelphia, Proby yko, 2 (Mbatzo), 63rd minute; 2, Philadelphia, Picault, 1 (Usin), 70th.

**Goalies - C**, Cincinnati, Spencer Riecke, 90 minutes; 2, Philadelphia, Picault, 1 (Usin), 70th.

**Yellow Cards - Philadelphia**, Truist, 15.  
**A - 12,890.**

**MLS scoring leaders**  
**Through Wednesday**  
Carlos Vela, LFC 11  
Diego Braghini, LA 11  
Krisztian Nemcs, LA 11  
Diego Rossi, LFC 6  
Jozy Altidor, TOR 6  
Kei Kamara, COL 5  
Nani, ORL 5

**Defender Ali Krieger, above, and midfielders Allie Long and Morgan Brian have been included on the U.S. national team roster for this summer's Women's World Cup in France. All three were widely considered on the bubble for the 23-player roster.**

RINDO H.W. CHU/AP



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Shuffling QBs

## 10 transfers worth keeping an eye on

By MATT MURSCHEL  
Orlando Sentinel

It's been a busy offseason with the newly minted transfer portal becoming a revolving door of players looking to continue their college careers elsewhere. No position has garnered as much attention as quarterback, where some high-profile players have moved around the country.

Here's a look at a few names to keep an eye on in 2019:

### Kelly Bryant

**Former school:** Clemson  
**New school:** Missouri

The writing was on the wall for Bryant who lost his starting job at Clemson to wunderkind Trevor Lawrence four games into last season despite having led the Tigers to a spot in the College Football Playoff a season earlier. He joins a Missouri program that was one of the top passing offenses in the SEC the past two seasons.

### Shane Buechele

**Former school:** Texas  
**New school:** SMU

Buechele saw his playing time and eventually his starting job with the Longhorns disappear with the emergence of Sam Ehlinger. The decision to transfer to SMU allows the Texas native to remain close to home while filling a need for the Mustangs, who lost Ben Hicks to transfer. Buechele's career completion percentage (62.2) makes him an attractive option for Sonny Dykes' offense.

### Justin Fields

**Former school:** Georgia  
**New school:** Ohio State

Nobody is happier that Fields received a waiver from the NCAA making him instantly eligible to play this season than new Ohio State coach Ryan Day. The Buckeyes were searching for a suitable replacement for Dwayne Haskins, and with Tate Martell's departure, Fields presumably takes the mantle as starter. It's a big risk, considering the talented playmaker has zero college starts to his name while at Georgia.

### Jalen Hurts

**Former school:** Alabama  
**New school:** Oklahoma

Perhaps the biggest offseason acquisition was Hurts, who joins a growing list of former transfers who've continued their careers with the Sooners, including the past two Heisman Trophy winners, Baker Mayfield and Kyler Murray. Hurts' pedigree is unmatched, thanks to his time at Alabama, where he went 26-2 as a starter and led the Tide to back-to-back National Championship Games in 2016 and 2017. Now under Lincoln Riley, Hurts could become the third straight OU quarterback to win the Heisman.



L.G. PATTERSON/AP

**Kelly Bryant takes the reins in Missouri after transferring from national champ Clemson.**

### Ben Hicks

**Former school:** SMU  
**New school:** Arkansas

Arkansas desperately needed an experienced quarterback and it got one in Hicks, a graduate transfer from SMU

who passed for more than 3,500 yards and 33 touchdowns in coach Chad Morris' final year with the Mustangs before moving on to coach the Razorbacks in 2018. Hicks thrived in the three seasons under Morris and offensive coordinator Joe Craddock, giving this team a major boost in 2019.

### Josh Jackson

**Former school:** Virginia Tech  
**New school:** Maryland

Jackson burst onto the scene in 2017 when he set records at Virginia Tech for passing yards (2,991) by a freshman while also adding 20 touchdowns and a passer rating of 135.2 along the way. But an injury derailed his 2018 season and he lost the starting job to Ryan Willis. He joins new Terrapins coach Mike Locksley, who recently spent time as the offensive coordinator at Alabama, working with Hurts and Tua Tagovailoa.

### Austin Kendall

**Former school:** Oklahoma  
**New school:** West Virginia

After patiently sitting behind Mayfield and Murray at Oklahoma, it appeared Kendall would get his shot in 2019. But Hurts' arrival instead predicated a transfer by the former four-star prospect, who instead looks to continue his career at West Virginia under new coach Neal Brown. In Kendall, Brown gets a quarterback with a high football IQ as well as an accurate sideline-to-sideline passer.

### Hunter Johnson

**Former school:** Clemson  
**New school:** Northwestern

Northwestern fans have been waiting a year to see what Johnson can



BROOKE LAVALLEY, COLUMBUS DISPATCH/TNS

**Above: Justin Fields runs the ball during the first half of the Ohio State spring game on April 13. Fields transferred from Georgia.**

bring to the Wildcats after sitting out all of last season per NCAA rules after transferring from Clemson. The former five-star prospect was well on his way to being the Tigers' next quarterback,

but that all changed with the arrival of Lawrence. Now, he should become the cornerstone of Pat Fitzgerald's offense as the team looks to capitalize off the momentum from last season's divisional title.

### Tate Martell

**Former school:** Ohio State  
**New school:** Miami

Martell was another quarterback who was biding his time on a depth chart stuck behind starters J.T. Barrett (2017) and Haskins (2018). However, the retirement of Ohio State coach Urban Meyer led Martell to transfer to Miami, where he received an NCAA waiver making him immediately eligible. His skill set, including a strong arm as well as quick feet, makes him a valuable asset for the Hurricanes.

### Brandon Wimbush

**Former school:** Notre Dame  
**New school:** UCF

With starter McKenzie Milton sidelined as he continues to recover from a massive leg injury suffered last season, UCF was in need of both depth and experience at the quarterback position. The Knights get that in Wimbush, who arrives as a graduate transfer after starting 16 games for the Fighting Irish. He has a big-time arm as well as excellent mobility, making him well-suited for UCF's offense.



SUE OROCK/AP

**Jalen Hurts takes over at Oklahoma after helping Alabama to three consecutive national title games.**

## GOLF



Justin Rose adjusted his playing schedule with only four weeks between the Masters and the next major — the PGA Championship — in May.

PHILAN M. EBENHACK/AP

# Major prep work

Quick turnaround leaves players scrambling to adjust training regimens

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

**T**he Masters in his rearview mirror, Justin Rose is excited about what he calls the next stage of the golf year.

Except in this case, objects might be closer than they appear.

Because while the next major is in two weeks, the first one ended only two weeks ago.

Still fresh for Rose is a Masters plan that went awry. For a five-month stretch, no one played better than Rose. He won twice, was runner-up twice and had a pair of third-place finishes over 10 tournaments that took him to No. 1 in the world. He took a five-week break to recharge, felt a little flat in his return during the Florida swing and then missed the cut at Augusta National for the first time.

There's no time to reflect.

The PGA Championship moving to May for the first time since 1949 is causing Rose and several other players to adjust their plans. The new schedule features a major a month, which doesn't allow players time to think, much less play.

"It is different, for sure," Rose said Tuesday at Quail Hollow. "There was a big focus on Augusta, and then in some ways you had until the U.S. Open so you could forget about major championship golf for at least a few weeks."

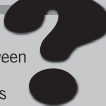
The Wells Fargo Championship figured to be a big winner in the compact schedule. The tournament typically had one of the strongest fields of May, and now that only four weeks separate the Masters from the PGA Championship, it would seem to be the perfect place to get geared up for the next major.

That hasn't been the case.

Missing from the field this week is Tiger Woods, who rarely missed Quail Hollow when his health was in good order. He said

## Did you know

Tiger Woods will not compete between majors for the seventh time in his career. He won the next major twice.



SOURCE: Associated Press

last week that winning the Masters for his first major title in 11 years took a lot out of him and he simply wasn't ready to get back to work just yet.

That means he will not compete between majors for the seventh time in his career. On two of those occasions, he won the next major — the 1999 PGA Championship in August and the 2008 U.S. Open in June, right before reconstructive knee surgery. He missed the cut at the U.S. Open in 2006, when he took off nine weeks to deal with the death of his father.

With only a month between majors, does a player risk losing form in such a short period of time?

"This seems like a leading question," Henrik Stenson said with a grin. "Is there someone who's going to do this in particular? Someone who maybe won at Augusta?"

Maybe. But it's not just Woods.

That schedule also fits Justin Thomas, the No. 5 player in the world who pulled out of Quail Hollow as a precaution because of a wrist injury. Bryson DeChambeau is not on the list to play next week in Dallas, meaning he also will go a month between majors.

Others are not too far removed.

Dustin Johnson, the No. 1 player in the

world, played at Hilton Head the week after the Masters and is likely to have three weeks off before the PGA Championship unless he decides to add Dallas at the last minute. Ditto for Francesco Molinari and Xander Schauffele.

Rose and Rory McIlroy are playing only at Quail Hollow between the majors, and Rickie Fowler appears to have the same plan.

Brooks Koepka is keeping a relatively busy schedule. He played last week in New Orleans, and Koepka has committed to playing next week in the AT&T Byron Nelson, mainly because he prefers to play the week before a major.

"It's what works best for you," said Stenson, who is keeping the busiest schedule of all. Because he was recovering from an arm injury late last year and did not make his first PGA Tour start until Mexico City in late February, the Swede is playing seven out of eight weeks.

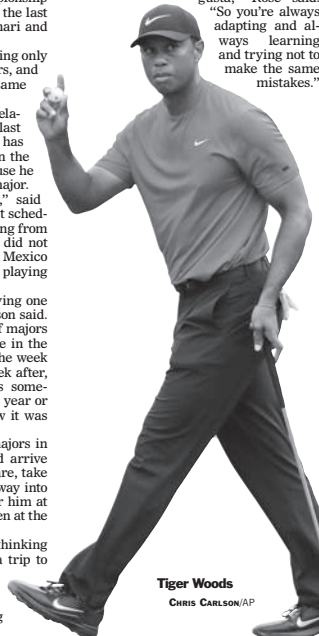
"I like the schedule with us having one big event every month now," Stenson said. "It gives the players a chance — if majors are your focus — to prepare more in the way you like, if you want to play the week before or you want to play the week after, whatever is your preference. It's something we'll get used to. It will be a year or so before we won't talk about how it was back in the day."

Rose originally looked at the majors in 10-day blocks, meaning he would arrive early the weekend before to prepare, take off on Monday and then ease his way into the week. That didn't work out for him at Augusta because he felt he had been at the tournament site too long.

So it's back to the old way of thinking amid a new schedule. He plans a trip to Bethpage in the middle of next week, then will return home to the Bahamas to relax and head back to Long Island early during PGA week.

"My preparation going into the PGA has changed because of the run-up into Augusta," Rose said.

"So you're always adapting and always learning and trying not to make the same mistakes."



Tiger Woods  
CHRIS CARLSON/AP

## MLB

# Home runs, strikeouts on record pace

All-or-nothing trend continuing over first full month of season

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cincinnati manager David Bell notices the difference from his playing days.

"There's just no question that swings are geared for more home runs," he said. "The swings are different than they used to be. It's pretty obvious when you pull up a video of 20 years ago, 30 years ago."

Baseball's all-or-nothing trend accelerated in the season's first full month, as batters binged on home runs and pitchers thrived on strikeouts.

Players hit 1,144 home runs in 874 games through April 30, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, an average of 1.31 per game. That is on track to break the record average of 1.26 set two years ago.

"I think we're starting to see more and more, some of the misfits are going pretty far, too," Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash said.

More significantly, the barrage took place during a time when cold weather in much of the country usually causes many fly balls to die on warning tracks. There were 912 homers in 838 games through April last year, an average of 1.09 in a season that ended at 1.15 — the second-highest ever. This year's weather was better to some degree; there have been 15 postponements, down from 28 through last April.

There was an average of one home run every 25.6 at-bats in April for the second-highest rate in any full month of games in major league history, according to Elias. The only higher average was one home run every 25.4 at-bats in June 2017.

"The ball's been flying here more than I've ever seen," Mets manager Mickey Callaway said after New York and Minnesota combined for a Citi Field-record 10 long balls. "This time of year, the balls don't usually travel like they are."

Perhaps more alarming to baseball officials is the rise in strikeouts. Batters are averaging 8.86 strikeouts per game, up from 8.48 last year — the 11th consecutive record year for whiffs. Strikeouts are on pace to top 43,000, up from 41,207 last year and 30,644 in 2005.

"Pitching just continues to get better and better, more velocity stuff. Just nastier pitching," Los Angeles Dodgers infielder David



## By the numbers

# 1,144

Home runs in 874 games through April 30 — 1.31 per game — on track to break the record average of 1.26 set two years ago.

# 25.6

Average at-bats per home run in April, the second-highest rate in any full month of games in history, trailing only the 25.4 pace set in June 2017.

# 8.86

Average strikeouts per game, up from 8.48 last year — the 11th consecutive record year for whiffs. Strikeouts are on pace to top 43,000, up from 41,207 last year and 30,644 in 2005.

SOURCE: Associated Press; Elias Sports Bureau

Freese said.

"Younger age guys are starting to learn even in their teens to get the ball in the air, not necessarily to hit the ball up the middle, other



PHOTOS BY ELAINE THOMPSON, TOP, AND JOHN BAZEMORE, ABOVE/AP

**Top:** The Mariners' Domingo Santana strikes out looking as Texas Rangers catcher Jeff Mathis reaches for the ball in Seattle. **Above:** Braves shortstop Dansby Swanson follows through on two-run home run against the San Diego Padres in Atlanta.

way type of stuff."

Before 2017, strikeouts never exceeded hits over a full calendar month. There were more whiffs than hits in April, June and September last year, and there were 187 more strikeouts than hits over the full season.

"This year already there were 949 strikeouts and 848 hits in March and 6,799 strikeouts and 6,371 hits in April, leaving strikeouts 529 ahead.

"Relief pitchers are throwing 95-plus (mph). Starters are throwing 93 or higher with movement," Mets third baseman Todd Frazier said. "Balls are going left and right, and up and down, and sideways."

And perhaps because batters

are crowding the plate, there have been 368 hit batters, an average of 0.42 per game on track to be the highest since 1900.

Frazier notes swings have changed as batters try to go deep.

"People got to understand, it's not how it used to be," he said. "When I was younger, they taught you to get on top of the ball, backspin."

With more strikeouts, requiring lengthier plate appearances, the average time of nine-inning games backtracked to 3 hours, 3 minutes, 48 seconds, up from 3:00:50 through April last season.

AP Sports Writers Josh Dubow and Dave Skretta contributed to this report.

## Scoreboard

### American League

East Division			
	W	L	Pct
Tampa Bay	19	11	.633
New York	17	13	.567
Toronto	14	16	.467
Boston	14	17	.452
Baltimore	11	21	.344

### Central Division

	W	L	Pct
Minnesota	18	10	.643
Cleveland	16	13	.552
Chicago	13	15	.464
Detroit	13	15	.464
Kansas City	11	20	.355

### West Division

	W	L	Pct
Houston	18	13	.581
Seattle	18	15	.545
Texas	14	15	.483
Los Angeles	14	17	.452
Oakland	14	19	.424

### National League

East Division			
	W	L	Pct
Philadelphia	17	13	.567
Atlanta	15	15	.500
New York	15	15	.500
Washington	12	17	.414
Miami	9	21	.300

### Central Division

	W	L	Pct
St. Louis	20	10	.667
Chicago	16	12	.571
Milwaukee	17	15	.531
Pittsburgh	14	14	.500
Cincinnati	17	17	.433

### West Division

	W	L	Pct
Los Angeles	20	13	.606
Arizona	18	13	.581
San Diego	17	14	.548
Colorado	14	17	.452
San Francisco	13	18	.419

### Wednesday's games

Tampa Bay at Oakland 5  
Kansas City 3, Tampa Bay 2, 1st game  
Pittsburgh 7, Texas 5  
Arizona 3, N.Y. Yankees 2  
Baltimore 5, Chicago White Sox 4, 1st game  
Kansas City 8, Tampa Bay 2, 2nd game  
Chicago Cubs 11, Seattle 0  
Philadelphia 7, Detroit 3  
Miami 4, Cleveland 2  
Minnesota 6, Houston 2  
Chicago White Sox 7, Baltimore 6, 2nd game  
L.A. Angels 6, Toronto 3  
St. Louis 5, Washington 1  
Cincinnati 1, N.Y. Mets 0  
Atlanta 5, San Diego 1  
Colorado 11, Milwaukee 4  
San Francisco 2, L.A. Dodgers 1

### Thursday's games

Houston at Minnesota  
Tampa Bay at Kansas City  
Boston at Chicago White Sox  
Toronto at L.A. Angels  
Cincinnati at N.Y. Mets  
San Diego at Atlanta  
Colorado at Milwaukee  
St. Louis at Washington  
Minnesota (Gibson 2-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Paxton 3-2)  
Oakland (Anderson 3-2) at Pittsburgh (Musgrove 1-2)  
Tampa Bay (Glasnow 5-0) at Baltimore (Straily 1-1)  
San Francisco (Lopez 0-2) at Detroit (Boyd 2-2)  
Seattle (Kikuchi 1-1) at Cleveland (Bieber 2-1)  
Toronto (Thornton 0-3) at Texas (Minnor 3-2)  
Boston (Sale 0-5) at Chicago White Sox (Lopez 2-3)  
St. Louis (Faherty 3-1) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 1-4)  
Washington (Hellebricksen 2-0) at Philadelphia (Elkoff 1-1)  
Atlanta (Gausman 1-2) at Miami (Ureña 1-4)  
San Francisco (Beede 0-4) at Cincinnati (Gray 0-4)  
N.Y. Mets (Matz 3-1) at Milwaukee (Gonzalez 0-0)  
Arizona (Ray 1-1) at Colorado (Anderson 0-2)  
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 1-0) at San Diego (Lauer 3-1)

### Saturday's games

Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees  
Kansas City at Detroit  
Seattle at Cleveland  
Oakland at Pittsburgh  
Tampa Bay at Baltimore  
Boston at Chicago White Sox  
Houston 4 at L.A. Angels at Monterrey  
Toronto at Texas  
St. Louis at Chicago Cubs  
Atlanta at Miami  
Washington at Philadelphia  
N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee  
San Francisco at Cincinnati  
Arizona at Colorado  
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego

### Calendar

**May 4-5** — Houston vs. Los Angeles Angels at Monterrey, Mexico.  
**June 2** — Amateur draft starts, Secaucus, N.J.  
**July 13** — Detroit vs. Kansas City at Omaha, Neb.  
**June 15** — International amateur signing period closes.  
**June 29-30** — Owners meeting, New York.  
**June 19-20** — New York Yankees vs. Boston Red Sox.  
**July 2** — International amateur signing period starts.  
**July 9** — All-Star Game at Cleveland.  
**July 21** — Hall of Fame induction, Cooperstown, N.Y.  
**July 31** — Last day during the season to trade a player.



## NHL PLAYOFFS



Dallas center Tyler Pitlick, right, checks St. Louis defenseman Vince Dunn during the Stars' 4-2 win.

## Stars' shake-up ties it up

Dallas rides line change to 4-2 win, evens series with St. Louis at 2-2

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS  
Associated Press

DALLAS — The first-year coach for the Dallas Stars switched up his top two lines, a move that put rookie Roope Hintz skating with captain Jamie Benn and Alexander Radulov.

Tyler Seguin, the top-line center who had Benn and Radulov on his side, instead started with Jason Dickinson and Mats Zuccarello.

Hintz scored his fifth goal of the playoffs while Seguin, Radulov and Zuccarello each had two assists as the Stars beat the St. Louis Blues 4-2 on Wednesday night to even the second-round series at two games each.

"It's one of those things where, when it happens it looks great, but if nothing happens tonight, then nobody even says anything about it," Dickinson said. "I think what it comes down to is personally guys elevating their game. If it took shaking up the lines to get guys to do that, then that's a great move by the coach."

Rookie coach Jim Montgomery told his team from the beginning of the season that he liked to switch lines. The latest switches sure worked in a crucial game for the Stars.

"They all rolled with it. And now because we've done it all year, they easily just assimilate with whoever they're playing with," Montgomery said.

The Western Conference semifinal series returns to St. Louis for Game 5 on Friday night, and then back to Dallas for Game 6 on Sunday.

Dickinson had an early tying goal after St. Louis went ahead 1-0 only five minutes into the game. Jason Spezza and John Klingberg also scored for the Stars.

"They were desperate and we didn't match that desperation in the first two periods," Blues

coach Craig Berube said.

Vladimir Tarasenko had a power-play goal for the Blues, who lost for the first time in their five road games this postseason.

Dallas went up 4-1 late in the second period when Radulov and Benn assisted Hintz's third goal of the series.

About halfway through the second period, Dickinson forced a turnover at center ice. Zuccarello got the puck to Seguin, who made a cross-ice pass to Klingberg, whose sniper shot whizzed to the left of rookie goalie Jordan Binnington and into the net.

"They came out hard. That's going to happen. We just have to stay in control," Binnington said. "They switched up their lines a bit. That's expected. Whatever is thrown at you, you've got to handle it."

Binnington stopped 27 shots, including a backhander by Andrew Cogliano, a breakaway by Miro Heiskanen and another charge by the Dickinson-Seguin line on shifts before Klingberg's second goal of the playoffs — he had the overtime winner in Game 6 against Nashville.

Ben Bishop, who had 27 saves, didn't stop Tarasenko's fifth goal of the playoffs that glanced off the Dallas goalie's left arm.

Dallas tied it at 1 with 8:38 left in the first period. Zuccarello took a shot that went left of the net and ricocheted off the board. Seguin kept the puck free, and got it to Dickinson, who was falling down in the crease when he scored his third goal of the playoffs.

"This is exactly where we're supposed to be at this point, right? Supposed to be 2-2. Now it's a three-game series," Dickinson said. "The only thing I think we can take from that is confidence. I don't think we can read too much into how the last series went because it's a whole new thing now."

## Scoreboard

## Conference semifinals

## (Best-of-seven; x if necessary)

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

## Columbus 2, Boston 1

## Boston 1, Columbus 2 OT

## Columbus 3, Boston 2 OT

## Thursday at Columbus

## Saturday at Boston

## APRIL Sports, 11:30 a.m. Sunday CET; 8:15 a.m. Sunday JKT

## x-Monday, May 6 at Columbus

## Carolina 3, N.Y. Islanders 0 OT

## Carolina 1, N.Y. Islanders 0 OT

## Wednesday: Carolina 5, Islanders 2

## Friday at Carolina

## Saturday at Carolina

## APRIL Sports, 1 a.m. Saturday CET; 8 a.m. Saturday JKT

## x-Sunday at N.Y. Islanders

## x-Tuesday, May 7 at Carolina

## x-Wednesday, May 8 at N.Y. Islanders

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

## St. Louis 2, Dallas 2

## St. Louis 2, Dallas 2

## Dallas 4, St. Louis 2

## St. Louis 4, Dallas 3

## Wednesday: Dallas 4, St. Louis 2

## Friday at St. Louis

## APRIL Sports, 10:30 a.m. Saturday CET; 10:30 a.m. Saturday JKT

## Sunday at Dallas

## x-Tuesday, May 7 at St. Louis

## San Jose 2, Colorado 1

## San Jose 5, Colorado 2

## Colorado 4, San Jose 3

## San Jose 4, Colorado 2

## Thursday at Colorado

## Saturday at San Jose

## x-Monday, May 6 at Colorado

## x-Wednesday, May 8 at San Jose

Wednesday  
Stars 4, Blues 2

St. Louis	1	0	1-2
St. Louis 2, Dallas 2	2	2	6-4
St. Louis 4, Dallas 3	3	2	6-4
First Period—1. St. Louis, Tarasenko 5 (Dunn, O'Reilly), 5:02 (pp.)	2	0	0-0
Second Period—1. Dallas, Spezza 2 (Lindell, Radulov), 19:58 (pp.)	2	0	0-0
Third Period—1. Dallas, Klingberg 2 (Seguin, Zuccarello), 9:26 (S), Dallas, Hintz 2 (O'Reilly, Pietrangeli), 13:44	2	0	0-0
Shots on Goal—St. Louis 8-9-12—29.	2	0	0-0
Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 1 of 2-2-7 saves.	2	0	0-0
Goals—St. Louis, Binnington 6-4 (31 shots-27 saves), Dallas, Bishop 6-4 (29-27).	2	0	0-0

A-18,790 (18,532), T-2,331.

## Hurricanes 5, Islanders 2

N.Y. Islanders	1	1	0-2
Carolina 11, Carolina 11-13-13	2	1	3-6
First Period—1. Carolina, Teravainen 4 (Hamilton, Slavin), 6:41; 2. N.Y. Islanders, Thomas 1 (Bailley, Bailey), 8:20 (pp.)	2	1	0-1
Second Period—3. Carolina, Faulk 1 (Goetz, Staal), 14:13; 4. N.Y. Islanders, Bailey 4 (Kuhnhack, 14:13)	2	1	0-1
Third Period—1. Carolina, Williams 2 (Aho), 10:15; 6. Carolina, Teravainen 3 (Slavin, Pesco), 19:17; 7. Carolina, Aho 3 (Wahlmark), 19:55	2	1	0-1
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 10-12-8—30.	2	1	0-1
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 1-1-2-4.	2	1	0-1
Goals—N.Y. Islanders, Lehner 4-3 (36 shots-27 saves), Carolina, McInnisney 2 (0-20-28).	2	1	0-1

A-15,066 (18,680), T-2,331.

## Hurricanes take 3-0 lead to leave Islanders dejected

BY AARON BEARD  
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Robin Lehner sat in the locker room, surrounded by reporters and taking the blame for the New York Islanders' latest playoff loss. His lament: a turnover behind the net that led to the go-ahead goal for the Carolina Hurricanes.

"I own that one," the goaltender said.

Yet, that play offered a glimpse at how the Islanders have found themselves facing a massive hole in a playoff series filled with close games. It's been a mistake here, a missed opportunity there, and an inability to come up with a needed goal to wrestle some lasting momentum from the surging Hurricanes. Now they're down 3-0 in their second-round Eastern Conference playoff series following Wednesday night's 5-2 loss, a game blown open by Carolina's two empty-net goals in the final minute.

Before those scores, neither team had led by more than a goal in the series. Here the Islanders are, though, needing to win Game 4 on Friday night in Raleigh — where the Hurricanes are 4-0 in the postseason — just to push the series back north.

"We can't let the frustration set in," said winger Josh Bailey, who had a goal and an assist. "I think the series could easily be the other way around. I think that's how close our teams are and how these games have gone. It hurts thinking about it that way, but at the same time we're right in it."

The Islanders certainly have reason to be frustrated, and a little shaken.

They rode a defensive-minded approach to near the top of the Metropolitan Division, then swept Pittsburgh in the first round to earn an extended break while the Hurricanes fought their way past the reigning Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals in a seven-game series.

But they lost Game 1 at home 1-0 in overtime on Jordan Staal's winner, then had two shots hit the post in the third period against backup Carolina goaltender Curtis McElhinney only to end up with a 2-1 loss in Game 2.

This time, there were a couple of opportunistic goals that both went Carolina's way, too.

"That's kind of what these games are," Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "One team makes that (mistake)... It's just a battle of, really, will and sticking to your game and trying to create that one gap, and that's what happened."

The first game when Carolina's Justin Faulk came out of the penalty box behind everyone and took a long feed from Warren



Carolina center Patrick Brown, left, checks New York Islanders forward Matt Martin during the Hurricanes' 5-2 win Wednesday in Raleigh, N.C. Carolina leads the series 3-0.

**‘We can’t let the frustration set in. I think the series could easily be the other way around.’**

Josh Bailey  
Islanders winger

Foegle — he gloved it near the blue line and dropped it to the ice — to score on a 1-on-1 chance against Lehner. Then there was Lehner's turnover when he tried to clear a puck by sending it along the boards from behind the net and out of trouble.

Carolina's Sebastian Aho managed to knock the puck down with his stick, then fed a cutting Justin Williams to beat Lehner for the 3-2 lead midway through the third.

"I screwed up," Lehner said.

Told that Lehner had taken responsibility for the loss in the locker room, Islanders coach Barry Trotz turned the focus away from the goaltender. "I appreciate him doing that, but we win or lose as a team," Trotz said. "There's other plays during a game that he's bailed us out many times."

Now the Islanders have only their second three-game losing streak of the season — the other came in November — at the worst possible time.

"They score a lot of scramble goals, if you want to say," Lehner said. "That's because they work hard and they put the puck to the net and they attack the net very well... Again, it's been tight games that come down to small, small mistakes. That's tough."

## KENTUCKY DERBY



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Game Winner, above, is the new favorite to win Saturday's Kentucky Derby after early favorite Omaha Beach dropped out.

# A triple shot at the roses

## Trainer Baffert goes after sixth win with three horses

By BETH HARRIS  
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The pain of seeing Cavonnier get beat by a nose in the first Kentucky Derby nearly kept trainer Bob Baffert from returning to Churchill Downs.

He figured he would never again have a horse good enough to win on the first Saturday in May.

A year later, though, he won the Derby with Silver Charm and again the next year with Real Quiet. Since the mid-1990s, Baffert has won five Kentucky Derbies and two Triple Crowns while becoming the face of horse racing.

"The Kentucky Derby is still the one," Baffert said, standing outside his barn in front of a green-and-white sign freshly updated with the names of his Derby and Triple Crown winners. "I could win the Derby and just go home, that kind of race it is."

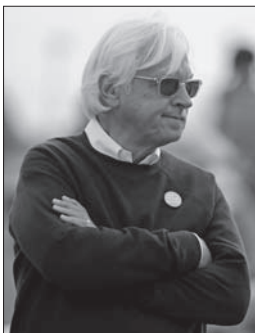
He will have three chances to make history Saturday.

Baffert saddles Game Winner, Improbable and Roadster in the 145th Derby. Game Winner was made the early 9-2 favorite in a revised morning line after Omaha Beach was scratched Wednesday night because of a breathing problem.

Improbable and Roadster were made the co-second choices at 5-1, giving Baffert the top three betting choices in the 20-horse field.

A sixth victory by Baffert would tie him with Ben Jones for most in Derby history. Jones trained six Derby winners between 1938 and 1952. Jones and Baffert are among four trainers who have won the race four times.

Baffert equaled Jones' feat of back-to-back Derby winners in 1997-98. He could



Trainer Bob Baffert watches Game Winner during a workout Wednesday at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky.

do it again Saturday, having won last year with Justify, the colt that went on to give Baffert his second Triple Crown triumph.

"I hate thinking about things because then I feel like I'm getting super jinxed," said the trainer, who once got spooked at the sight of a black cat crossing his path on the backside of Churchill Downs.

Baffert has had three Derby starters in the same year twice before. In 2006, his entries finished ninth, 16th and 17th. In 1999, his horses were fourth, fifth and 11th.

"There's nothing more exciting in the Derby than when you turn for home and your horses are in contention," the 66-year-old said. "You just want to be proud

that your horses show up."

Baffert knew he was bringing the best horse to the Derby with Triple Crown winner American Pharoah in 2015 and Justify last year. He hasn't talked up his current trio the same way.

"It's sort of wide-open," he said about the 20-horse field.

Game Winner has the strongest résumé of Baffert's entries. He was last year's champion 2-year-old male and won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Churchill Downs. The colt lost last month's Rebel Stakes by a nose to Omaha Beach.

"He's tough, he's gritty. Coming to the Derby, you want a horse that's resilient," Baffert said. "He's ready for a big effort."

Improbable finished second to Omaha Beach in the Arkansas Derby.

Roadster has overcome the most obstacles, having undergone throat surgery last year and quarter cracks in his hooves this year, similar to a human breaking a fingernail near the cuticle.

"I knew he was something really special," said Baffert, who first touted the colt to TMZ.

The celebrity website's camera crew caught Baffert outside a trendy West Hollywood restaurant last year.

He gets stopped in airports by people who recognize him by his white hair. His horses are routinely overbet simply because he trains them.

"I used to be the horse guy," he said. "Now they know me by Baffert, so I've come a long way."

When asked by strangers if he has won the Kentucky Derby, he does not like to say how many times. Perhaps because he still cannot believe the answer is five.

"I'm going in there like I'm trying to win my first Derby," he said.

# Court, 58, ready to be oldest rider

By MIKE FARRELL  
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Jon Court will set a record as the oldest jockey in the Kentucky Derby when he rides Long Range Toddy this weekend.

Court is 58, which is a lot of candles on the birthday cake for someone still participating in an incredibly dangerous sport.

Churchill Downs officials say the current record holder is Bobby Baird, who was 57 when he rode Raymond Earl to a 10th-place finish in the 1978 Derby.

Mike Smith, 53, was scheduled to ride Omaha Beach in the Derby but the early favorite was scratched.

Bill Shoemaker is the oldest jockey to win the Derby, at 54 aboard Ferdinand in 1986.

It takes a combination of skill and a healthy dollop of luck to persevere when most of the competition since riding your first winner in 1980 has long since retired.

"I've been blessed," Court said. "I've been fortunate to have the gift to do, and the talent to be able to participate on a regular basis. I am taking care of myself. And I've been very blessed that I can compete at this level and at the top category with this type caliber horses."

**Jon Court**  
Oldest jockey in Kentucky Derby history at 58

Long Range Toddy is a long shot at 30-1. The colt trained by Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen is 4-for-8 in his career, with Court aboard for the last two races, both at Oaklawn: a victory in the Rebel Stakes and a sixth-place finish in the Arkansas Derby.

"I had been told that he was kind and intelligent," Court said of Long Range Toddy. "That impressed me. After working him, I realized he had the talent it would take to be running at the caliber level he's racing at."

This will be Court's fourth Derby mount. His best finish was eighth aboard Will Take Charge in 2013. Derby opportunities were a long time coming. Court's first Derby ride came in 2011. He never abandoned hope he would make the sport's biggest race.

"I would say I was quietly confident," he said.

Court, who was born in Gainesville, Fla., has lived the typical gypsy life of a jockey. He has been a regular on circuits in Colorado, Louisiana, Kentucky, Indiana, Arkansas, Alabama and California. He has more than 4,000 victories and his two biggest were consecutive wins in the Arkansas Derby with Line of David (2010) and Archarcharch (2011).

But it was a different kind of horsepower that could have ended Court's career. He suffered a fractured collarbone last year in a motorcycle accident.

"As long as it feels good and I'm doing well, I'll keep going," Court said. "I'd like to be able to enjoy this industry as much as I have loved it and be able to step down gracefully at my timing."

He'd love to leave with a Kentucky Derby trophy as a memento.

"That would be a beautiful thing," Asmussen said. "Jon gave him such a dream trip in the Rebel. Hopefully, we can recapture some of that magic Saturday."

**'As long as it feels good and I'm doing well, I'll keep going.'**

# KENTUCKY DERBY/TRACK & FIELD/AUTO RACING



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Exercise rider Taylor Cambra rides Kentucky Derby entrant Omaha Beach during a workout at Churchill Downs on Wednesday in Louisville, Ky. The pre-race favorite was scratched on Wednesday night after a breathing problem was discovered.

## Omaha Beach out

### Favorite scratched over breathing issue

By BETH HARRIS  
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Suddenly, the Kentucky Derby is wide open.

Favorite Omaha Beach was scratched because of a breathing problem Wednesday night, leaving a pair of Hall of Famers on the sideline — trainer Richard Mandella and jockey Mike Smith.

Churchill Downs oddsmaker Mike Battaglia revised the morning line to make Game Winner the 9-2 favorite for the 1 1/4-mile race Saturday.

Improbable and Roadster were installed as the co-second choices at 5-1, giving five-time Derby-winning trainer Bob Baffert the top three choices in the 20-horse field.

Mandella told The Associated Press that Omaha Beach developed a cough and a subsequent veterinary exam showed the colt has an entrapped epiglottis. It's generally not life- or career-threatening and is typically corrected with minor surgery.

"It's been a devastating thing, but we have to do what's right for the horse," said Mandella, who has never won the Derby with six previous starters.

The trainer said Omaha Beach will have surgery in Kentucky in the next few days and will be sidelined for two to three weeks. The ordeal will knock him off the Triple Crown trail.

"It's such a disappointment, but we'll fight again," Mandella told the AP. "We won't be out a long time."

The scratch was another blow to cancer survivor Rick Porter, the colt's 78-year-old owner. He has twice finished second in the Derby, in 2007 with Hard Spun and the following year with filly Eight Belles, who broke her ankles past the finish line and had to be euthanized.

"He's a great sport," Mandella said. "I've got very good support."

Omaha Beach had been the 4-1 early favorite.

Mandella's dry sense of humor came out when he said, "My wife has my leg tied down so I can't jump out of the window."

Smith had chosen to ride Omaha Beach instead of Roadster and now he won't have a chance to win the Derby for the second straight year. He rode Justify to victory last year.

"I'm a little bummed out, but the horse is OK and we're going to be all right," Smith told the AP by phone. "The good news is it wasn't anything that is life-threatening."

Smith has three mounts on Friday's card at Churchill Downs and five Saturdays.

"I'll be rooting for Roadster's connections big-time," he said. "I'll be a glorified cheerleader."

Omaha Beach galloped Wednesday morning without problem and Mandella said everything was fine. But that changed by late afternoon when the exam showed the cough was more than a minor irritation.

The condition can indicate the start of a virus, a sore throat or a sore somewhere in the horse's soft palate.

Omaha Beach's scratch moves Bodeexpress into the field in the No. 20 post.

Mandella said he would likely return to Southern California before the Derby.

"I didn't lose interest," he said, "but I don't want to be here and watch it."

It's not the first time the Derby has lost a favorite leading up to the race.

In 2009, I Want Revenge became the first morning-line favorite to scratch on race day because of a hot spot on his ankle.

## IAAF will apply testosterone limits to 1,500, ignoring CAS

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — Track and field's governing body will immediately apply its testosterone regulations to the 1,500 meters, president Sebastian Coe said on Thursday, ignoring advice from the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The CAS said on Wednesday there was not enough evidence to show Caster Semenya and other female athletes with naturally high testosterone levels had a significant advantage in that event.

The CAS upheld the IAAF's rules limiting testosterone for athletes competing in some events, including Semenya's favored 800 meters, in its landmark ruling.

But in a caveat to the decision, the Switzerland-based court specifically said there was "a paucity of evidence" to apply the rules to the 1,500-meter and one-mile races. The CAS asked the IAAF to delay the rules in those events until it provides more evidence.

Asked a day later at a news conference in Doha, Qatar, if the IAAF would heed that advice from sport's highest court, Coe gave a one-word answer: "No."

Despite saying the IAAF would



KAMRAN JEBRELI/AP

**IAAF President Sebastian Coe reacts during a press conference on Thursday in Doha, Qatar.**

blatantly ignore the CAS' advice on the 1,500 meters, Coe said he was "really grateful" to the court for its overall decision.

Having answered two questions from reporters on the CAS decision, Coe refused to speak any more on the issue.

Coe's response to the 1,500-meter question fuels Semenya's argument that the IAAF is deliberately sidestepping the 28-year-old South African star because of her success. The two-time Olympic

and three-time world champion in the 1,500 recently put more focus on the 1,500 as an alternative. She won a bronze medal in the 1,500 at the 2017 world championships.

Semenya gave her strongest criticism yet of the IAAF when she said in a statement in the wake of the CAS decision: "I know that the IAAF's regulations have always targeted me specifically. For a decade the IAAF has tried to slow me down, but this has actually made me stronger."

Semenya now has the option of submitting to the IAAF rules and medically reducing her testosterone to be able to compete in the 800 or 1,500 at major meets. Or she could run longer distances and not have to medicate. She hasn't indicated what she will do.

Semenya and another athlete who has publicly announced she has a testosterone condition, Francine Niyonsaba of Burundi, will both run in the 800 at the Diamond League meet in Doha on Friday.

It will be the last top-class women's 800 before the testosterone regulations come into effect next week.

## NASCAR back to old qualifying

By JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR abandoned its years-long bid to add excitement to qualifying and announced Wednesday it will return to single-car laps after the current format became a laughingstock.

All three national series will make the change at all oval tracks, starting this weekend at Dover.

NASCAR for more than five years has used a group qualifying format, but a new rules package this season created an unintended consequence: drivers could game the system.

"The teams are always going to do what benefits them the most and unfortunately that was waiting, drafting," said Scott Miller, senior vice president of competition. "It wasn't a very compelling show. We owe it to our fans to provide something that is worth watching."

Miller did not concede it as a victory for the teams, who found every loophole to their benefit.

"I don't think anybody is at fault. It is something we tried to try to provide a good show, we were optimistic and it didn't work out," Miller said. "Maybe we should have been more proactive, maybe they should have been active. Whatever."

NASCAR was adamant it was trying to keep qualifying entertaining for fans because single-car runs are tedious, but teams continued to find loopholes that

**"We obviously want to put on the best show we can and it obviously didn't work out the way we thought it would."**

Scott Miller

NASCAR senior vice president of competition

made the format a farce. Most drivers waited until the very last moment to pull off pit lane for their qualifying run; and all 12 drivers in the final round at California in March missed the cutoff point to even register a lap.

NASCAR officials were furious and for the past month considered various options, but the emphasis on aerodynamic draft created through the new rules package backed the series into a corner. Teams wanted an aero pull and waited for another driver to go first, and they showed no intention of stopping despite several NASCAR attempts to tighten the rules.

Elimination-style rounds were also cut. Television partners Fox Sports and NBC Sports are tasked with showing qualifying, which had been knockout rounds completed within an hour. Both TV partners indicated to NASCAR they could still produce an interesting show with single-car qualifying, which played a part in NASCAR's decision to go back to a format most find technical and rather boring.

"We've all seen how group

qualifying evolved, and with the teams all waiting until the last minute, it became problematic from a content standpoint and also from a storytelling standpoint for the broadcaster and radio perspective," Miller said. "It was very hard to figure out who was doing what when it was [happening] only in two minutes. This is also about restoring general order."

NASCAR said the single-car qualifying format will be in effect for the rest of the season, though group qualifying will remain in place at road courses.

The qualifying order draw will be determined by the previous race's starting lineup. The session should still be completed in an hour, with potentially two cars half a lap apart making runs at the same time, and the networks will rely on technology to enhance the production.

"We obviously want to put on the best show we can and it obviously didn't work out the way we thought it would," Miller said. "We are in the business of racing and putting on a good show at the same time."



# HIGH SCHOOL/OLYMPICS



WILLIAM HOWARD/Stars and Stripes

SHAPE's Sverre Loso shoots against Alconbury goal keeper Jack Hayosh during a Marsh 23 game at RAF Alconbury, England. SHAPE's boys and girls soccer teams have undefeated records.

## SHAPE out to make waves

BY GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

It's fine if you haven't noticed that SHAPE is the last school in Division I with perfect records in both boys and girls soccer. The Spartans are used to it. "Without a doubt we are overlooked," SHAPE girls coach John Arias said.

Spartans boys coach Shawn Whitehurst said the school is often excluded from the spotlight trained on the division's larger programs.

"Historically, SHAPE has been constantly overlooked in the media because it's not in the population-dense area of the [Kaiserslautern Military Community], Wiesbaden or Stuttgart," Whitehurst said.

It'd be dangerous to ignore the Spartans this year. Both SHAPE soccer squads bring unbeaten divisional and overall records into this weekend's visit to Ramstein, the largest of the aforementioned big schools of Division I. That perfect start includes boys and girls sweeps of divisional opponents Vilsack, Kaiserslautern and Lakenheath.

Increased attention comes with its own drawbacks, however. Whitehurst said he's thrilled to see his players recognized by the media, but would prefer to maintain some aura of mystery.

"As a coach who is strategizing for the tourna-

ment ... I want the opposition to come into the contest somewhat blind so that they cannot predict our strengths and weaknesses," Whitehurst said.

The Spartans' relatively small stature can also serve as motivation when they share a field with a more prominent opponent.

"Our girls are never intimidated by the bigger schools," Arias said. "They will play their hearts out and go toe-to-toe with whomever they come up against."

Along those lines, Whitehurst is unabashed about his team's pursuit of the No. 1 seed in this month's European tournament, an achievement that would make the Spartans impossible to overlook.

Boys and girls wins over Ramstein this weekend would secure match unbeaten divisional records for the Belgium-based Spartans, who will go on to face Division III squads Baumholder and Brussels to wrap up their regular-season schedules after taking on the Royals.

"You cannot dismiss the conference games as unimportant any more than you can dismiss middle school as unimportant," Whitehurst said. "Without those necessary steps, you cannot rise to the level of play needed at the tournament."

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## Royals baseball wants crown back

BY GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

Ramstein is playing like baseball royalty once again.

A year removed after an unceremonious ouster from a DODEA Europe Division I baseball tournament that they formerly dominated, the displaced champions are back atop the standings this spring. The Royals are the organization's last remaining unbeaten team, taking a perfect 8-0 record into this Friday's doubleheader against divisional rival Vilsack.

"As a team, we have been focusing on keeping it simple," said first-year head coach Osvaldo Garcia Carrillo. "We like to have fun and I want them to stay in the zone."

That light-hearted approach, however, is tinged with a thirst for redemption. The Royals saw their

half-decade dynasty atop Division I abruptly end last spring with an 8-7 semifinal loss to Lakenheath, who went on to become the division's first champion other than Ramstein or Stuttgart.

"Every returning player has kept that chip on their shoulder," Carrillo said. "Last year, the baseball gods were not on our side. The boys set a plan to improve themselves."

That's particularly true for seniors Jerod Junkins, Nathan Kranz and Tieren Shoffner, all three of whom were part of championship squads prior to last year's setback. The three have taken lead roles in the effort to restart the Royals' title reign.

"We have a really good group of seniors who are in charge to keep the younger players motivated," said Carrillo, whose team has four freshmen and seven

sophomores on the roster. "For my seniors ... it's a personal goal to take the baseball crown back to Ramstein."

That outcome is by no means assured. Ramstein has won its last six games by a minimum of five runs, but the season started with a challenge from archival Stuttgart, which took the Royals to the limit before taking 1-0 and 5-4 losses in the March 23 doubleheader. Ramstein will wrap up its regular season with tough road doubleheaders at second-place Wiesbaden and perennial contender Kaiserslautern ahead of its May 23 tournament opener.

Carrillo is confident this Royals team has what it takes to overcome those remaining obstacles.

"They play with swag. They do not look like a young team," Carrillo said. "They are getting better by the day."

## US ramping up for 3-on-3 qualification

BY DOUG FEINBERG  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — USA Basketball is ready to ramp up its 3-on-3 play to try and qualify for next summer's Olympics.

The Americans, who have dominated international basketball by using NBA and WNBA players, are looking to have similar success in the Olympics' newest basketball discipline that is debuting next year in Tokyo.

First they'll have to qualify — and don't count on a LeBron James or Kevin Durant to help. The NBA may have the best players in the world, but the qualification process makes it doubtful any of them could compete even if they wanted to try.

"I think FIBA's vision is that 3-on-3 is for the new generation of player," USA Basketball CEO Jim Tooley said. "It's unlikely a pro athlete, given the qualification schedule, will earn enough points. This brings the sport to people who never had a chance to have a pathway to the Olympic Games."

Qualifying as a country is based on a point system, which can be earned by playing in FIBA-sanctioned tournaments around the world. The top three point-earning countries by Nov. 1 will automatically qualify for Tokyo. The U.S. men are currently ranked eighth and the American women are 33rd. If the Americans aren't in the top three by that date, there will be a last-chance tournament held next spring for the final few spots.

Only seven teams per gender will join Japan at the Olympics.

USA Basketball has formed a partnership with Red Bull to run over 20 tournaments around the country this summer to help the Americans qualify. The first tournament will be in Detroit on June 22.

"USA Basketball has a rich tradition of success on the court, and Red Bull has a legacy in progressing sports and engaging fans, so this partnership is a perfect pairing," Tooley said. "Both organizations are synonymous with athletes, groundbreaking events, creative projects and content, and USA Basketball is thrilled to collaborate in this unprecedented partnership to take 3-on-3 basketball to new heights."

Despite its history of success at the 5-on-5 level, the U.S. has struggled just to get teams into the big events in the newer version.

Serbia has dominated the men's FIBA World Cup tournament that began in 2012, winning four gold medals. The Americans won the silver medal in 2016 after finishing 14th in 2014. They didn't qualify for the 2018 tournament, but did lock up a spot for this year's event. USA Basketball is hosting a tournament in Las Vegas this weekend to determine which men will be on that team.

**'It's unlikely a pro athlete, given the qualification schedule, will earn enough points. This brings the sport to people who never had a chance to have a pathway to the Olympic Games.'**

Jim Tooley  
USA Basketball CEO

The women won gold medals in 2012 and 2014 before settling for the bronze in 2016. The American women finished fifth in 2018 after not qualifying in 2017. They didn't qualify for this year's World Cup, either.

"There's a lot that evens the playing field," Tooley said, explaining why the Americans haven't dominated 3-on-3.

If the U.S. teams do qualify, a selection committee will determine which four players will represent the team at the Olympics. However, the odds of the players on the team will be based on the top 10 in the country in points earned. The other two must be in the top 50 overall for the country. Those points are earned by playing in FIBA tournaments and playing in higher-level tournaments to earn a player more points.

Damon Huffman, who played at Brown from 2004-08, is the top-ranked American at No. 21 in the world. He's part of a team called "Primeout" that plays in the FIBA tournaments around the globe that has helped the U.S. earn qualifying points.

The U.S. women currently have no one ranked in the top 250 overall.

The 3-on-3 rules are made for up-tempo competition. There's one 10-minute period, making 3-on-3 a lot quicker than its 5-on-5 counterpart. A game can end even sooner if a team scores 21 points in less than 10 minutes. If the game is tied after 10 minutes, it goes into overtime, where the first team scoring two points wins. There's also a 12-second shot clock.

Those rules make a big difference in limiting the Americans' depth, which they have used to overwhelm opponents in traditional Olympic basketball games. The FIBA rules are also very different than the Big3 league of former NBA players that Ice Cube co-founded in 2017, so even Americans currently playing 3-on-3 professionally wouldn't have a natural adjustment to the Olympic version.

## NBA PLAYOFFS

## Scoreboard

## Conference semifinals

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)

## Eastern Conference

Boston 112, Milwaukee 90  
 Milwaukee 123, Boston 102  
**Friday:** at Boston  
**AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Saturday CET; 9 a.m. Saturday JKT**  
**Monday:** at Boston  
**AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Tuesday CET; 8 a.m. Tuesday JKT**  
**Wednesday, May 8:** at Milwaukee  
**x-Friday, May 10:** at Boston  
**x-Monday, May 13:** at Milwaukee  
**Toronto 1, Philadelphia 1**  
 Toronto 108, Philadelphia 95  
 Philadelphia 94, Toronto 99  
**Thursday:** at Philadelphia  
**Sunday, May 5:** at Philadelphia  
**AFN-Sports, 5:30 p.m. Sunday CET; 4:30 a.m. Monday JKT**  
**Tuesday, May 6:** at Toronto  
**x-Thursday, May 8:** at Philadelphia  
**x-Sunday, May 12:** at Toronto  
**Western Conference**  
**Golden State 2, Houston 0**  
 Golden State 104, Houston 100  
 Golden State 115, Houston 109  
**Saturday, May 4:** at Houston  
**AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Sunday CET; 9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT**  
**Monday, May 6:** at Houston  
**AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m. Tuesday CET; 10:30 a.m. Tuesday JKT**  
**x-Wednesday, May 8:** at Golden State  
**x-Friday, May 10:** at Houston  
**x-Sunday, May 12:** at Golden State  
**Denver 1, Portland 1**  
 Denver 121, Portland 113  
**Wednesday:** Portland 97, Denver 90  
**Friday:** at Portland  
**AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Monday CET; 8 a.m. Monday JKT**  
**Sunday, May 5:** at Portland  
**Tuesday, May 7:** at Denver  
**x-Thursday, May 8:** at Portland  
**x-Sunday, May 12:** at Denver

## Wednesday

**Trail Blazers 97, Nuggets 90**  
**Portland** — **Harkless** 2-3 0-0 5, **Aminu** 3-9 4-5 11, **Kanter** 5-10 5-9 15, **Lillard** 5-17 3-4 14, **McCollum** 8-20 1-2 20, **Layman** 0-1 0-0 0, **Collins** 5-6 0-0 10, **Curry** 1-4 0-0 3, **Hood** 5-11 3-4 15, **Turner** 2-4 0-0 4, **Totals** 36-65 16-29 97  
**Denver** — **Craig** 2-5 2-4 7, **Millsap** 6-14 1-1 14, **Jokic** 7-17 2-4 16, **Murray** 6-18 1-1 15, **Harris** 1-4 4-4 12, **Plumlee** 2-7 0-0 6, **Morris** 1-1 2-3, **Beasley** 4-11 3-8 13, **Barton** 1-4 0-0 4, **Totals** 34-64 16-29 90  
**Portland** 28 22 28 29-97  
**Denver** 23 12 29 26-90  
**Third-Point Goals**—Portland 9-29 (McCollum 3-7, Hood 2-6, Harkless 1-1, Curry 1-3, Aminu 1-4, Lillard 1-1, Layman 0-1), Denver 6-29 (Beasley 2-6, Murray 2-8, Craig 1-2, Millsap 1-3, Jokic 0-1, Barton 0-1, Harris 0-0 0-5), Fouled Out—None. **Rebounds**—Portland 47 (Aminu 10, Lillard 10, Laysan 10, Collins 10, Hood 18 (McCollum 6), Denver 20 (Jokic 7), **Totals** 104—Portland 22, Denver 19, **Technical**—Kanter, Murray, A—19,520 (19,520).

## Playoff leaders

## Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, GOL	8	88	58	274	34.2
Leonard, TOR	7	79	41	219	31.3
Lillard, POR	10	75	38	274	27.4
Harden, HOU	6	61	53	203	29.0
George, OKC	5	44	40	143	28.6
Antetokounmpo, MIL	6	51	45	156	26.0
Jokic, DEN	9	80	42	215	23.9
Slakem, TOR	7	51	15	159	22.7
Curry, GOL	8	55	46	186	23.2
Westbrook, OKC	5	45	23	114	22.8
Harris, POR	5	44	18	108	21.6
DeRozan, SAN	7	58	38	154	22.0
Williams, LAC	6	45	34	130	21.7
Mitchell, UTA	7	56	38	107	21.4
Embiid, PHL	6	41	41	127	21.2
LeVert, BRO	5	36	21	109	21.0

## Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Drummond, DET	4	20	32	52	13.0
Jokic, DEN	9	32	76	108	12.0
Embiid, PHL	6	15	50	65	10.8
Antetokounmpo, MIL	6	14	51	65	10.8
Robert, UTA	5	23	28	51	10.2
Harris, PHL	7	8	63	71	10.1
Horford, BOS	6	10	50	60	10.0

## Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Westbrook, OKC	5	53	10.6
Rubio, UTA	5	43	8.6
Jokic, DEN	9	77	8.6
Lowy, TOR	7	56	8.0
Green, GOL	8	63	7.9
Irvina, BOS	6	46	7.7
Williams, LAC	6	46	7.7
Harris, PHL	7	59	7.0
Jackson, DET	4	28	7.0
Simmons, PHL	7	46	6.6

## Calendar

**May 14** — Draft lottery begins.  
**May 14-15** — Conference Finals begin (possible move up to May 12-13 in Chicago).  
**May 14-19** — Draft combine, Chicago.  
**May 30** — NBA Finals begins.  
**June 10** — NBA Draft early entry event (possible final deadline is May 30).  
**June 16** — NBA Finals final possible date.  
**June 20** — NBA Draft.  
**July 5-15** — NBA Summer League, Las Vegas.

## Blazers even series with Nuggets

## McCollum picks up slack when Lillard struggles

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
 Associated Press

DENVER — After giving up 39 points to Damian Lillard in the opener, the Denver Nuggets were determined to make sure Portland's role players would have to bear the burden of evening up the series.

His teammates were up to the task on a night when Lillard, who came in averaging 34.8 points in the playoffs, was held to 14 points on 5-for-17 shooting.

CJ McCollum led six Trail Blazers in double figures with 20 points in a 97-90 victory at the Pepsi Center on Wednesday night that evened their series 1-1.

"It's very important," said Enes Kanter, who chipped in 15 points for Portland. "Teams can't guard him with one man. They were sending double-teams, triple-teams. That's when I said, 'He's making himself better, but at the same time he's making everybody else better around him.' He was passing the ball, really active on defense. He's been unbelievable, man."

The series shifts to Portland for Game 3 Friday night, and Lillard's hoping a return to the Moda Center will help him find his long-range rhythm after he misfired on 14 of 19 three-pointers in Denver.

The Nuggets trimmed a 17-point, third-quarter deficit to 95-90 in the final minute thanks to an astonishing 14 offensive rebounds in the fourth quarter and a 19-9 run before Rodney Hood's two free throws with 17 seconds left iced it.

By JANIE MCCAULEY  
 Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — James Harden's eyes were still red and stinging well after the final buzzer.

He could barely see on the court let alone read the box score after the game.

The reigning MVP hopes he will feel better with a few days off before the Rockets' Western Conference semifinal series against Golden State resumes Saturday in Houston with his team trailing 2-0 following a 115-109 loss Tuesday night in Game 2.

Harden scored 29 points on 9-for-19 shooting to go with seven rebounds, four assists and six turnovers. Eye drops he received only helped so much to relieve the discomfort.

He injured his eyes with 6:39 left in the first quarter, grabbing



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Portland Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum, right, drives past Denver Nuggets forward Torrey Craig and center Nikola Jokic, left, during the second half of Game 2 of their second-round playoff series Wednesday in Denver. McCollum scored 20 points as Portland evened the best-of-seven series at 1-1.

"The good news is they had all of those offensive rebounds but they didn't convert a lot," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "They were 8-for-24 on second-chance points. We were fortunate we came away not hurt as badly as we could have been on the offensive boards."

Denver's Nikola Jokic had 16 points and 14 boards but got off to a slow start and wasn't nearly the take-control force he was in Game 1, when he scored 37 points.

"The last quarter we missed a lot of put-backs, but 23 offensive rebounds is a big number," Jokic said. "The first half we had open shots but we didn't make any of those."

With Jokic taking — and missing — just one shot in the first quarter and scoring six points in the first half, the Nuggets trailed 50-35 at halftime after the franchise's worst quarter ever at home in the playoffs, one in which they made just 5 of 23 shots and missed

all 10 of their three-pointers.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone said he admonished his team at halftime, telling his players, "If you're not making shots, maybe attack the basket, maybe get to the foul line, maybe get to the rim."

The Nuggets started doing that after halftime, but the Blazers answered time after time, getting 15 points from Hood, 11 from Al-Farouq Aminu and 10 from Zach Collins.

## Rockets' Harden played with blurred vision

Green's left hand got Harden in the face.

"I can barely see. Just tried to go out there and do what I can to help my teammates," Harden said. "It's pretty blurry right now. Hopefully it gets better day by day."

When Harden went to the locker room with 6:27 remaining and a towel over his left eye for a cut, Green patted him on the back and checked to make sure he was OK. Harden returned at the 7:09 mark of the second.

"We were fighting for a rebound. I made a mistake and hit him in his eye," Green said. "It's not about hurting anybody out here. So many times people forget, when a guy has an injury, you live with that every day, every second of every day. It's not just about this game. If his eye is messed up, he's got to live that every day. Just want to check on

the guy. At the end of the day it's bigger than basketball when it comes to injuries."

Harden scored seven straight Houston points during one stretch midway through the fourth, including a three-pointer at 7:25 that got the Rockets within 92-89. Stephen Curry then connected for a key three at the 6:31 mark.

As good as he still was, Harden didn't seem completely comfortable.

"He fought through some stuff. The guy looked like he was not in great shape the first half. I think it might have cleared up a little bit," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "But he got raked pretty good in the eyes. But that's him. I didn't have a doubt he was coming back unless it was something catastrophic. I'm sure he would have loved to have played better. Under the circumstances, I thought he played great."



JEFF CHIU/AP

The Rockets' James Harden wipes his injured eye with a towel during the first half of Game 2 against the Warriors.

at his face after he and Green fought for a loose rebound and

# SPORTS



**Blues lose**  
Stars shake things up,  
even series » **NHL, Page 59**



**MLB**

# ALL or NOTHING

Home run, strikeout numbers climb  
at record pace as season's first full  
month builds on free-swinging trend

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Pictured, left to right: The Chicago Cubs' Willson Contreras; the Houston Astros' George Springer; and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger.

AP photos

**Baffert chasing 6th Kentucky Derby victory » Page 60**

